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# THE INDEPENDENT

3,069 TUESDAY 20 AUGUST 1996 WEATHER: Hot and stormy 40P (IR45P)

# The stifling of British democracy

**ANTHONY BEVINS**
*Political Editor*

MPs' attempts to apply the basic checks of British democracy to European law are being undermined by a staggering mix of Whitehall incompetence and Brussels arrogance.

Now, the Commons Select Committee on European Legislation, which is supposed to scrutinise all Brussels proposals on behalf of Parliament, has told ministers that it has had enough.

When the Commons returns from its summer break on 14 October, the committee will boycott all European legislative proposals that arrive without an official English text.

That could prove a severe embarrassment to ministers who are technically not allowed to go to Brussels to enact Euro-law without Commons scrutiny clearance. It puts the Commons in open conflict with ministers over the area of maximum Tory sensitivity – Europe.

Patience exhausted, the committee reveals that only five out of 14 Government departments have even bothered to order its reports from HMSO; vital ministerial letters are regularly sent to wrong addresses or even non-existent committees; and over the last 12 months, 75 Brussels proposals "of legal or political importance" had to be examined "blind" – with oo official text available from Brussels.

A year after ministers were warned that if matters did not improve, improperly-presented Euro-law could face a Commons boycott, the situation has worsened. That "lamentable state of affairs" has forced the MPs on to a war footing, and the unprecedented blockade. The MPs say: "We look forward to an early improvement."

Technically, ministers are not allowed – except in the most exceptional circumstances – to agree to legislation in Brussels ministerial meetings, without prior passage through the Westminster scrutiny process.

In fact, as the committee reports, there have been a number of "lapses" in that rule; in breach of Government pledges to Parliament, or even in defiance of Commons resolutions.

There have even been occasions when ministers have not only gone ahead and given Brussels agreement, but they have then oot told the select committee what they have done until some weeks later – "or not at all".

But official contempt, or crass incompetence, has stretched the patience of the MPs to breaking point.

Under the scrutiny system, there are strict timetables for the delivery of official texts from Brussels, explanatory memorandums from ministers, and examination by the all-party committee, which includes a broad spectrum of pro-European and Euro-sceptic MPs from both parties.

Because scrutiny clearance is regarded by Parliament as a democratic essential for any legislation, the European Legislation Committee plays a vital role for the bulk of MPs who would not dream of looking at the text of Euro-law.

Yet the Department of Trade and Industry estimates that a third of existing UK legislation arises from treaty obligations to implement EU law, and "in future, 70 per cent of business law will come from that source".

The committee has discovered, however, that there are nine – unidentified – Government departments that have not even bothered to get regular delivery of its reports. It says: "We hardly trust ourselves to make further comment."

But the sorry saga continues, with the committee exposing a breakdown in communications between Whitehall ministers and the Westminster committee, with its offices just a 10-minute walk from most departments.

Ministerial explanations of Brussels law, and their answers to critical questions, are being wrongly addressed; some do not include the enclosures they promise; others come with second class postage; others are even sent to committees that do not exist.

"These would be petty criticisms – after all, mistakes happen in the best-regulated circles – but for two things: the frequency of the errors, and their result.

"Preparation of a response to urgent questions from us about an important legislative proposal may involve the valuable time of ministers and senior officials; but we are not telepaths, and the effort comes to nothing if the minister's reply is sent by second class post to the wrong address."

The committee also warns of the risks posed by Commission legislation – the use of secondary legislative powers provided by the ruling Council of Ministers. Last year, while 303 regulations were made by ministerial council, 827 regulations were issued by the Commission, without Parliamentary scrutiny.

The report adds: "Commission legislation on BSE was for a time the best-known piece of legislation in Europe." And for those who would argue that most of the Euro-law is trouble-free, "This is a little like reassuring a motorist that his tyre is only flat at the bottom."

### How the system is failing us

- Last year, the European Legislation Committee was expected to give "blind" clearance to 42 important pieces of Brussels law, without an official text; over the last year, that has nsen to a "lamentable" 75;
- The Department of Trade and Industry, Treasury, and Foreign Office have repeatedly delayed Euro-law examination by sending memos to wrong addresses.
- It took the "lackadaisical" Environment Department more than six months to deliver information, last January, on a law dealing with water for human consumption.
- In January, the Heritage Department showed "alarming ignorance" of the scrutiny process under which Euro-law is considered.

# 'The Firm' contemplates the ultimate privatisation

**STEVE BOGGAN and MICHAEL STREETER**

The Queen is preparing radical proposals for a shake-up of the Royal Family which would distance the monarchy from the Church of England, give women equal rights of succession and end state support for the Windsors.

Buckingham Palace yesterday confirmed that senior members of the Royal Family and their advisers were involved in talks about their future, believed to include the return of incomes surrendered to Parliament in the 18th century.

Royal shift: The Queen has radical plans for the future

Details of the proposals, leaked to the *Sun* newspaper, include plans to restrict membership of the Royal Family to the monarch, the consort, their children and grandchildren who are direct heirs. They also provide for the ending of the monarch's role as head of the Church of England and would allow kings and queens to marry Catholics, a move warmly welcomed by the Roman Catholic Church last night.

The plans, which would require several Acts of Parliament if approved, would end the tradition of sisters being overlooked for the throoe and replaced by younger brothers under the rules of primogeniture.

Arguably the most potentially controversial proposal would involve the Queen giving up her £7.9m a year Civil List payment in return for income derived from the extensive Crown Estates surrendered by King George III in 1760. The Crown Estates portfolio brought in £94.6m for the Treasury last year, but was almost offset by the £80m-plus cost of financing the royals, their staffs and the royal palaces.

Although the proposals are understood to be in their infancy, one royal source said the sums added up to the suggestion that the Royal Family wanted to stand on its own feet "lock, stock and barrel".

Dr David Starkey, lecturer in history at the London School of Economics, said: "The idea of shifting from the Civil List – which is subject to Parliamentary votes and a form of Parliamentary audit – to depending on the Crown Estates really amounts to the privatisation of the monarchy."

The political parties, anxious not to provide ammunition to their opponents before the election, were muted yesterday, apart from Labour's consitutional affairs spokesman, Doug Henderson, who said he understood the discussions were "routine".

According to the *Sun*, the Queen's think-tank is called the Way Forward Group and it has been meeting every six months to discuss the future of the Royal Family. Its members include the Queen, Prince Philip, the Prince of Wales, Princes Edward and Andrew and Princess Anne. Also present are: Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary; his deputy, Robin Janvrin; Prince Charles's private secretary, Sir Richard Aylard; and Michael Peat, Keeper of the Privy Purse.

A spokeswoman for the Palace confirmed that talks about the future had been under way "like in any organisation".

Windsor & Sons? page 3

Mirror image: Hay bales arranged by farmers make a harvest copy of Stonehenge on the opposite side of the A303, near Salisbury, in Wiltshire Photograph: Brian Harris

# Chechen truce dies at birth

**PHIL REEVES**
*Moscow*

Ceasefire negotiations in Chechnya appeared to be dying at birth last night with a fresh outburst of fighting in Grozny, amid signs that the Russians are determined to regain control of the city after its humiliating loss nearly a fortnight ago.

The commander of federal troops in Chechnya, Konstantin Pulikovsky, issued an ultimatum to the separatists saying the Russians would launch large-scale operations against the rebels in the city within 48 hours.

Fighting in the republic's capital flared anew as a meeting between Russian and Chechen officials ended fruitlessly, with the separatists angrily claiming the Kremlin was demanding a rebel withdrawal from Grozny as a precondition to a lasting ceasefire.

This development was followed by unconfirmed reports in Moscow quoting a rebel commander saying Russian troops had begun moving on Grozny from several directions around 7.15pm, raising fears that a full-scale counter-attack was under way. The Russians denied any such operation.

Whether or not these were the opening salvoes in a Russian attempt to recapture the city, the outlook is looking increasingly bleak, despite the flicker of optimism that followed last week's visit to the war zooe by Alexander Lebed, the Russian Security Council secretary.

Yesterday President Boris Yeltsin appeared to ignore Mr Lebed's more conciliatory handling of the crisis by ordering him to restore the situation in Grozny to "the law and order of 5 August" – the day before several thousand rebels stormed in and seized most of the city.

The instruction includes ending the Chechen blockade of government buildings, checkpoints and other Russian positions in the city. If Mr Lebed tries to do so using military force – it is highly unlikely the separatists would agree to move voluntarily – there would be a huge risk of more heavy casualties, and weeks of fighting. Many hundreds – including more than 200 federal troops – have died in the past two weeks.

Mr Yeltsin has said he is committed to the peace process he began in May and has asked Mr Lebed, his envoy to Chechnya, to concentrate on a partial withdrawal of federal troops by next mooth.

A Russian television station, NTV, said that Mr Lebed was meeting the Chechen chief of staff, Aslan Maskhadov, to the region last night. But the latest developments will make all talks even harder than usual.

## CONTENTS



## QUICKLY

**BSE verdict**
A coroner opened up a legal minefield yesterday by ruling that beef products contaminated with mad cow disease, or BSE, caused the death of a 20-year-old from the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease. Page 2

**Belgian outrage**
As the full horror of Belgium's child-sex scandal became apparent, the public voiced its anger at the former minister of justice and the police. Page 9

34
9 770951 946429

news

# Burger blamed over BSE death

CHARLES ARTHUR
Science Editor

A coroner opened up a legal minefield yesterday by ruling that beef products contaminated with "mad-cow disease" (BSE) caused the death of a young man from the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD).

Geoffrey Burt, coroner for North Durham, returned a verdict of misadventure on Peter Hall, 20, who died in February of CJD despite being a vegetarian since 1992. Mr Burt said that on the "balance of probabilities" something like a beefburger eaten before 1990 caused the disease.

The verdict was significant because it did not rule the disease to be "natural causes", as it would be in its normal form, which usually affects people over 60. Instead, Mr Burt told the hearing, in Durham, that he felt misadventure was the appropriate verdict because the former student's death came about "through an outside course".

The decision leaves open the question of whether Hall's parents could sue the manufacturers of any foods, or the Government, for failing to take sufficient action to keep the BSE agent out of the food chain.

After the hearing, his parents said they were "very pleased" with the outcome but it was "far too early" to consider pressing for compensation. Derek Hall said: "This has been a step in the right direction and is more ammunition to get things moving for a public inquiry." His wife, Frances, said: "We want the Government to recognise that this has been a problem for a lot of years and should have been dealt with much earlier. Our son died because of their mistakes."

However, James Ironside, of the CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh, said: "This doesn't constitute proof of a link. It is a hypothesis, based on the epidemiological evidence. We need results from other experiments before we can definitely say that one causes the other."

He also disclosed that the number of suspected victims of the new CJD is slowly growing, according to figures from the unit. Five more suspected cases are under review, including a teenage girl in Scotland. There have been 12 cases in Britain in the past two years, all the victims aged under 42.

Hall, who was from Chester-le-Street, County Durham, was one of the 12 cases. He had been vegetarian since he was 16 but his father said that before that time he had often taken a quick beefburger snack on coming home from school. And more often than not they had brisket on Sunday.

Mr Burt said: "I am satisfied that it is more likely than not that Peter contracted this disease prior to 1990 through eating some form of contaminated beef product, such as a beefburger."

A Health Department spokesman said that a coroner's opinion did not constitute scientific fact.

"The verdict is misadventure. It's a contribution to the debate and you now know the coroner's opinion but it doesn't actually change anything material here."

## SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

**The five boys on the French school trip** on which the schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson was murdered were yesterday taken to a police station to give DNA samples, said a source close to the investigation. The youngsters arrived at the station in Launceston, Cornwall, Caroline's home town, in three unmarked vehicles. Nearly two hours later, they were rushed away in a white unmarked Range Rover.

The boys were in a 45-strong party of pupils and teachers from Launceston community college on a week-long trip to Brittany when the tragedy happened on 18 July. Caroline, 13, from Launceston, was raped and suffocated in a tiny dormitory in a hostel in the town of Pleine-Fougeres. A Devon and Cornwall police source has said the boys were being treated as witoesses, not suspects. All the children on the trip will now be reinterviewed.

**Industrial unrest in the rail network is set to spread** to the flagship Gatwick Express line and other key companies in disputes over productivity and breaks during working periods. Employees at some eight companies are already planning 24-hour strikes on Friday and Tuesday, but ballots on strikes are now taking place at a dozen more operators.

The Friday and Tuesday stoppages, involving catering staff, conductors and ticket collectors, are set to affect Central Trains, North West Regional, South Wales and West, Merseyrail Electrics, North London Railways, Regional Railways North East, Cross-Country and Scotrail. Walkouts are also planned on 29 August and 12 September at other companies: South West Trains, Anglia Railway, Cardiff Railway, Gatwick Express, Great Eastern, London Tilbury and Southend, Inter-City West Coast, Midland Mainline and Island Line, Thames, East Coast Main Line and Great Western. *Barrie Clement*

**The potential eviction of homeless asylum seekers** from temporary accommodation was put on hold last night after High Court action by Shelter and the Refugee Council. Government lawyers told the court they were urgently consulting the housing minister David Curry on the intentions behind part of the Asylum and Immigration Act after the two charities argued that the Government was attempting to implement it retrospectively. The Department of the Environment said it had "no view" on wbether councils should act immediately as Shelter accused ministers of "astounding incompetence" in failing to issue guidance under the Act. *Nicholas Timmins*

**The solicitor representing the man accused of** stabbing a young vicar to death in his churchyard told a court yesterday that he was concerned about the large amount of publicity the case had attracted. Julian Linskill told Liverpool Magistrates' Court that he was concerned about whether Terence Storey, 31, of Speke, Liverpool, would get a fair trial in the city. Reporting restrictions were lifted after an application by Mr Linskill when Mr Storey appeared charged with murdering the 32-year-old clergyman Christopher Gray eight days ago at St Margaret's Church, Anfield. Mr Storey was remanded in custody until September 16.

**Police seized a 2kg rhino horn worth £15,000** after a raid on a commercial premises and are now questioning a man over the discovery. Area wildlife officers from the Metropolitan Police and the Environmental Investigation Agency searched the premises, in west London, yesterday and seized the tusk, which is 16-20 inches long. The search was part of Operation Charm, a continuing investigation into the illegal trade and importation of endangered species.

**A charity yesterday called on the Pope** to condemn animal cruelty in Catholic celebrations. The World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) is asking supporters to send postcards of abused animals to the Pontiff, urging him to oppose the cruelty meted out at Spanish and Latin American fiestas. The postcards of bleeding, tethered and tormented bulls include one of a bull with lit Catherine wheels on his horns.

# Bards of Wales strike blow for language

TONY HEATH

Welsh poets who claim the BBC is undermining the purity of the ancient language are going on strike.

The bards are setting their sights on the Cardiff-based station Radio Cymru – in particular the long-running *Talwrn y Beirdd* (Cockpit of the Bards) programme which challenges contestants to compose poems in strict metre.

The programme which goes out twice a week has a successful track record extending over 15 years and, the BBC says, it will continue with or without the critics. The bards complain that the station, a major player in Wales's cultural life, is abandoning the old values of strict grammar and pronunciation to make way for programmes aimed at younger audiences.

They insist that Radio Cymru, which now includes English rock and pop – and the occasional word in another language – must be an all-Welsh service, for the 500,000 fluent speakers among Wales' 2.6 million inhabitants.

One of the senior bards, Myrddin ap Dafydd, who owns a bookshop at Llanwrst in the Conwy Valley, said: "The BBC is undermining the reasons for the station's existence."

Geraint Talfan Davies, BBC controller in Wales and a fluent Welsh speaker, was unworried by the threat of industrial action. "This is clearly a special moment in industrial history. It needs to be commemorated in a special radio ode which we would be happy to commission."

The battle between purists and the populists was joined yesterday by Agenda, an independent company that supplies a nightly magazine programme to the Welsh Fourth TV Channel. Its editor, Rhodri Williams, ensures that popular Welsh personalities who cannot communicate in the language still get an airing. He said: "It is essential to have policies that include output for people who don't speak Welsh very well."

## Tories under fire: Model who posed for photo hits out at 'dirty tricks' campaign

Focus of attention: A close-up of Scott Woods's eyes yesterday, turned upside down to mimic the campaign advertisement Photograph: Edward Webb

# Devil advert gets another one in the eye

MICHAEL STREETER

The Tory decision to demonise Tony Blair cootinues to haunt the party, with the actor whose eyes were used to represent the devil in the Labour leader complaining yesterday that he did not approve of "dirty tricks" campaigns.

Scott Woods, a model and actor, said yesterday he would have turned down the job had he known the full content of the advertisements. His comments follow the announcement by the Advertising Standards Authority that it was investigating complaints about the campaign.

Mr Woods, 42, of Hackney, east London, said: "I knew the image was going to be used in a Conservative Party "New Labour, New Danger" campaign, but they were only using my eyes and I had no idea they were going to superimpose it on a picture of Tony Blair. I'm unhappy about that and I think I would have turned the job down. It's all part of the dirty tricks campaign and I don't approve of that or being used in it."

Mr Woods, who appeared in Ken Russell's *Treasure Island* on Channel 4, and is about to play a serial killer in a new British film, *The Lighthouse*, admits to a certain resemblance to Boris Karloff and says he was chosen because of his menacing eyes.

"During the shoot I was told to look as sinister as possible, and they put blue contact lenses on me to make me look even more of a serial killer."

No to the eyes: Tory advert

The actor, who was chosen from a list of models on the books of the Ugly Enterprises model agency, admits he is a Blair supporter but confesses he used to vote for Margaret Thatcher. "I think Tony Blair is trying to change things and I admire him for that."

Although open to the charge of self-publicity in coming forward, Mr Woods, who only took up acting a year ago and is thought to have been paid around £200 for the work, did not tell his agent or model agency of yesterday's informal press conference. His motive, he said, was fear of exposure by a newspaper that was on his trail.

His comments yesterday touched a chord with a number of Tory politicians who feel unhappy about the nature of such an attack on Mr Blair. The demonology aspect has been criticised by a leading churchman, and Mr Major himself is reported to be unhappy with the campaign.

A Central Office spokeswoman insisted that Mr Woods had "known from the start" how the photograph would be used, and said while there were no further plans to use them again, it had "not been ruled out".

Steve Hiltoo, of M&C Saatchi, which devised the campaign, said that at the time that Mr Woods did the photographs and a related video there were no plans to use the Blair newspaper advertisements, which were a response the Clare Short interview in the *New Statesman*.


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# Ministers 'contemptuous' of checks on EU

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

## All-party committee exposes failure of government to allow proper scrutiny

Westminster's first and most vital check on Brussels law-making is regularly treated with contempt by British ministers and their departments.

Government undertakings and Commons resolutions lay down a strict procedure, under which ministers are *generally* not allowed to agree to Brussels directives or regulations until they have been cleared by a formal Westminster scrutiny procedure.

Under that process, the all-party European Legislation Committee – probably the most streamlined and professional operation in the Palace of Westminster – plays a vital, democratic role on behalf of Parliament.

But it is now regularly being subjected to what it generously calls "lapses". Whatever the cause of the "difficulties", democracy is being short-circuited.

Listing the main problems it faces with Whitehall, the committee cites:

- Failure to secure Westminster scrutiny clearance before ministers reach final Brussels agreement – legislative decision. "On some occasions ministers have not only failed to secure scrutiny clearance; they have failed to tell us about it until some weeks later, or not at all;
- Late deposit of documents. "In one case, seven weeks after the proposal had been agreed", or enacted in Brussels;
- Late submission of ministerial explanatory memorandums, which should be have been delivered within 10 working days of the Brussels proposal arriving in London: "In the worst cases, five weeks and eight weeks after the documents had been discussed in the Council." So ministers who are talking in Brussels do not have the time or inclination to fulfil fundamental democratic obligations to their own national Parliament;
- Late provision of information formally requested by the select committee in reports or in letters to ministers. "A number of delays of three months or more; in the worst case, fourteen months."

According to the committee, each of those categories "represents breaches of government undertakings or a Resolution of the House." But that democratic felony is compounded by the bungling incompetence – or worse – of Whitehall departments who apparently feel that they do not even have to perform the most basic tasks, like correctly addressing letters, or enclosing documents that are said to be enclosed.

"Departments, and particularly ministers' Private Offices, do not seem able to get documents to us with any degree of reliability.

"The basic requirement is that all communications of any sort should come to our offices, where they can be registered and copied, briefing prepared, and then circulated in reasonable time for Members to study them before their weekly scrutiny meeting.

"Given the quantity of documents we deal with every week, this operation is always close to the margin.

"It becomes impossible if we do not receive explanatory memorandums and ministerial and other correspondence by the quickest possible means."

But in spite of the clearest possible Whitehall instructions – and repeated reminders from the Cabinet Office – letters are still being sent to Jimmy Hood, the Labour committee chairman, at the Commons, with no indication that they contain urgent correspondence for his committee.

When he is in his Clydesdale constituency, the Commons post office automatically redirects all his mail to Scotland – completely by-passing the select committee machine.

But the insult does not end there. Ministers' letters are frequently sent by second class post, sometimes even when a minister is asking us for urgent scrutiny clearance on a document.

Other regular problems include missing enclosures, letters for us addressed to the House of Lords, to other select committees, to non-existent committees, and so on."

Last year, the committee warned ministers that it would consider a boycott of some European proposals if Brussels continued to expect Westminster scrutiny to be carried out "blind" – without the texts of the documents, regulations and directives that were on the brink of enactment by ministers.



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The Royal Family is debating a new role, but just who will pay the piper – and call the tune?

# Debate finds MPs at a loss

It's one of the last great political taboos. Politicians find debating the future of the Royal Family about as comfortable as discussing BSE over Sunday lunch.

The Labour Party in particular considers it a very touchy subject. When prospective parliamentary candidate Paul Richards recently published his Fabian pamphlet – gently suggesting *referendums* on keeping the Monarchy – you could almost hear the sound of falling furniture as Labour spin doctors ran to their phones to distance the party from such heretical views.

Frontbenchers have fared little better. The shadow Secretary of State for Wales, Ron Davies, was forced to apologise for daring to suggest that Prince Charles may not be entirely fit to be *king*.

Even leadership favourite Mo Mowlam was subjected to reverse spin-doctoring two years ago when she proposed a purpose-built "People's Palace" for the Royals, leaving Windsor Castle and Buckingham Palace to the nation. And Jack Straw was criticised in the House by the normally mild-mannered Stephen Dorrell for positing a Scandanavian-style monarchy.

Tony Blair has gone out of his way to make it clear that even a constitutionally reforming Labour Party perceives a central role for the Queen.

The political wisdom among Labour ranks, largely unchallenged, is that the "ordinary" people love the Royals and even hinting that the expense, embarrassment and anachronism of the House of Windsor *may be worth reforming* is electoral suicide.

Labour backbencher Lynne Jones, who would like to see a referendum on the role of the monarchy at the end of the Queen's reign, feels politicians are too cautious. "It is amazing that we don't discuss this issue," she says. "The politicians are behind the public on this - it's not something people are unwilling to discuss."

Indeed, like Dr Jones, Rotherham's Labour MP, Denis MacShane, sees a role for a streamlined monarchy which could still carry out formal and ceremonial functions. "I would much rather someone like Princess Anne coming up here to open a new Sunday school. In other countries you'd get some plonker of an MP doing it."

Michael Streeter

Jack Straw: Faced criticism

Board meeting: The 'Way Forward Group' (from left) Sir Richard Aylard, Prince Charles, Prince Philip, the Queen, and Sir Robert Fellowes Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee

# E. Windsor & Sons?

"The biggest privatisation of them all" was how one commentator described it yesterday. What remains unclear today is whether privatisation of the Royal Family would leave it wealthy, like BT, or broke, like BR.

While four of the five main proposals to take the royals into the 21st Century – allowing eldest daughters to succeed to the throne; removing the monarch as head of the Church of England; allowing the monarch to marry a Catholic, and reducing the size of the Royal Family – would meet little resistance, the fifth is not so simple.

That proposal, apparently under discussion within a private forum of Royal Family members and advisers, would involve renouncing the £7.9m Civil List payment, in return for the income from the Crown Estates, surrendered by King George III in 1760.

A bargain? On the face of it, not for the taxpayer. According to the 1995/96 annual report of the Crown Estates commissioners, income from the land and property they administer – some of the most expensive pieces of real estate in the country – amounted to £94.6m. However, the latest estimates of the costs of running the Royal Household, its palaces and staff amount to about £80m.

If, therefore, the privatisation analogy were taken to its conclusion, the royals could well be in for a bumper dividend.

The Palace refused to discuss specifics of the talks, revealed yesterday by the *Sun* newspaper, but one Buckingham Palace source said the financial changes, if approved by Parliament, could result in a radical loosening of the Crown's dependence on government.

At present, the cost of the Royal Family is spread across a number of government departments. They pay for everything from security to the cost of the Royal Flight and - until recently - the Royal yacht, *Britannia*. Included is the upkeep of Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, St James's Palace, Clarence House, Kensington Palace, Marlborough House, Hampton Court and Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. The Queen pays for Balmoral and Sandringham.

However, if the income from the Crown Estates were returned, the taxpayer could no longer be expected to pay for the royal excesses. "It seems obvious that the sums are still being worked out," said one royal source. "But if the deal is that they get all the Crown Estates income back in return for standing on their own feet, you can expect to see them having to pay for the palaces. Who actually gets to keep them – the royals or the state – is another argument."

Dr David Starkey, lecturer in history at the London School of Economics, said we might expect to see the royals selling themselves harder, like many struggling landowners.

"This would make them more like any other noble family, living off its estates. It would be a monarchy which becomes more like Alton Towers or the Lions of Longleat. It is going to have to flog itself very hard."

But there is a constitutional element, too, according to Vernon Bogdanor, Professor of Government at Oxford University. He said: "Sir Frederick Ponsonby, Keeper of the Privy Purse for George V, once said: 'It is an essential part of the Constitution that the Sovereign should be dependent on Parliament for the Civil List and should not receive money directly from Crown lands.'

"Those comments were based on the view that the monarchy should be dependent on Parliament so it couldn't do anything awful. However, there is a danger now that the monarchy could become too close to government. If, for example, John Major failed to get an overall majority at the next election. The other two parties might be able to form a coalition government, but Mr Major might ask the Queen to dissolve Parliament so he can call another election. In that instance, it is better for the Constitution to have an independent monarch who would refuse."

So, would the monarchy look radically different? Lord Blake, the Conservative historian, who has offered advice in the past at the request of the Queen – though not in this forum – thinks not. "To all intents and purposes, most people would see no difference," he said.

Some observers believe the sex and religious discrimination reforms will endear the Royal Family to many who had begun to *lose faith in it*. But they also feel the financial changes display a realisation within the royals that the writing is on the wall.

It may be that the Queen feels the 21st century will end with Britain as a republic. If so, perhaps she considers the time is ripe to reclaim the family silver.

Steve Boggan

## Church thinks it's free already

**The Royal Family and its advisers appear to be thinking seriously about disestablishment. No one else is. The Church of England's General Synod rejected a move to discuss it in 1994, and since then has been preoccupied with internal affairs. The public appears to be indifferent. It is difficult to be certain, because no opinion poll on the matter has been carried out in the past five years.**

**The established nature of the Church of England is complicated, and not secured by any single act of parliament. Over the centuries, it has been disestablished at the fringes, but the core of the relationship between church and state in England is still mediaeval. The church is more closely tied to the monarchy than to any other institution: the monarch is crowned in a religious ceremony by the Archbishop of Canterbury; swears to uphold the Church of England "by law established"; and may not become or marry a Roman Catholic.**

**The monarch's title of "Defender of the Faith" is a nice example of this confusion: originally awarded by Pope Leo X to Henry VIII in 1521 for his attacks on Martin Luther, it was kept by the king after he broke with the pope. The Prince of Wales suggested briefly that it be changed to "Defender of Faith", thus ridding it of doctrinal baggage, but it is not at all clear what this might mean.**

Defender of the Faith: Henry VIII liked his title. Prince Charles might alter it

**The other main links in establishment are that the Prime Minister appoints diocesan bishops from a short-list prepared by a committee of church politicians and civil servants and that 24 of these bishops sit in the House of Lords. The Prime Minister also chooses senior cathedral clergy. The church's governing body, the General Synod, is the only body ontside Parliament which can make English law. Parliament must approve the laws that the General Synod passes, but it cannot modify them.**

**A recent row over the control of the church's assets has shown clearly that the Church of England believes that it is already free from state control in all but name. The social security select committee of the House of Commons has objected to a church plan to transfer control of the income from the church's £3bn assets from the Church Commissioners, who are formally answerable to Parliament, to the General Synod, which is not. It is clear from the synod's response that it cannot accept state control of the church as anything more than a distant principle.**

Andrew Brown

# Rulers with pedal power

Since Britain stumbled on the odd notion of a ruler without power, constitutional monarchy has become, alongside soccer and cricket, one of our more successful exports. In fact, the damned foreigners liked the idea so much that they have become better at it than ourselves (like soccer and cricket).

Ten years ago, the British monarchy was the most popu*lar and least controversial in the* world. Now, it seems, others have managed a smoother transition to the post-deferential era.

There have been non-British royal scandals aplenty. A couple of years ago, a Norwegian princess was cited in a divorce case by a shop assistant from Ellesmere Port. But royal peccadilloes elsewhere have not had a devastating effect on the institution of monarchy.

*There may be two reasons for* this. The British royals make global news in a way most of the other royals can't. Secondly, the other royal families (Japan's apart) sloughed off their quasi-divine status years ago. Human foibles were no great shock to their largely indifferent subjects. The British, by contrast, have had a rapid and uncomfortable descent; from veneration to near-mockery.

The Windsors evidently detest the notion that the-called "bicycling royals" of Europe got it right and they got it wrong. Two years ago, Prince Charles splenetically told the *Mail on Sunday* that the Scandinavian royals, in particular, are "grander, more pompous, more hard to approach than we are".

Grander? Most of the other royal families are less expensive to maintain than ours, although not cheap and always more expensive than a president.

The cost of the Dutch throne, probably the most expensive on the Continent, is estimated at £37m annually, compared to £100m for ours (hidden extras included). The flunky count is also instructive. The British Royal Household is 400, Norway's 120, Sweden's 70 and Denmark's a dozen.

More pompous and harder to approach? The Japanese certainly; the Europeans, hardly. Queen Margrethe of Denmark has fortnightly audiences with members of the public. The Belgian royal family is especially touchy-feely: they were out and about hugging victims of accidents long before the Princess of Wales became the Queen of Hearts.

John Lichfield

caption

# Rewriting history with big sister in charge

Imagine a world without a Reformation, a Civil War or even two world wars. No Richard the Lion Heart, no Henry VIII, no madness of King George.

History doesn't relate what might have been if the older sisters of these famous kings had ruled the royal roost at the crucial cornerstones of the country's past.

The ancient law of primogeniture, which determines the royal succession, only allowed women to take the throne in the absence of any men; Queen Elizabeth *II has no* brothers.

The director of *Burke's Peerage*, Harold Brooks-Baker, believes the world would have been a dramatically different place – and for the better – had the women been charged with the royal reigns.

For example, James I's eldest child, Elizabeth, who became known as "the Winter Queen" after she married the ruler of Bohemia, Frederick V, would have made a far superior monarch to her younger brother, Charles I.

"She was far more capable than her brother," said Mr Brooks-Baker. "She had the brains, talent and *ability* ... Great Britain would have been a much stronger nation during that time and probably would have avoided [later] problems." Her brother might even have escaped his unfortunate decapitation. Elizabeth, incidentally, was named the "Queen of Hearts" for her "winning demeanour".

Richard I: Sister would have changed 'Lionheart' nonsense

And if Henry VIII had been *beaten* to the throne by his older sister Margaret? "We would almost certainly have avoided the problems with the Church of Rome. Great Britain would have remained a Roman Catholic nation ... and everyone would have been less confused."

But Mr Brooks-Baker feels sure that the "highly sexed" Margaret Tudor, the eldest daughter of Henry VII, would have kept up with her brother on the spouse front.

A Queen Matilda, daughter of Henry II, instead of King Richard I, "would have avoided the whole nonsense with Richard the Lion Heart". Richard was a "dreamer" who "cared more for crusades than governing his own country", but it is hard to say whether his sister would have been better, since little is known of her.

If the eldest child of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, Edward VII's sister Princess Victoria, "had become sovereign and married the Emperor Frederick of Germany, you could make a fairly good argument that it would have averted the First and Second World Wars," said Mr Brooks-Baker.

And if she had not married the Emperor, they would not have created Kaiser Wilhelm, "certainly the most destructive person in the first half of the 20th century", he added.

Finally, what would have happened had George III's saner sister, Augusta, ruled the country? "There's a good chance that Great Britain would not have lost the American colonies," Mr Brooks-Baker said. "Obviously Great Britain would be a much richer, more powerful country today."

Clare Garner

news

# The beach is deserted, but a desperate hunt continues

Dangerous playground: The beach at Holme in Norfolk yesterday. Jodie and Tom Loughlin were last seen running towards the sea, which is notorious in the area for the unpredictability of the tide Photograph: Simon Hadley/Assignments

**Charlie Bain** reports on the fruitless search for two small children thought to have walked into the surf

The beach at Holme in Norfolk was eerily deserted of families yesterday, as police continued the search for two children who apparently disappeared after splashing in the sea at the start of their summer holiday.

Jodie Loughlin, six, and her brother Tom, four, were last seen by their parents running through crowds of families towards the waves on Sunday evening as the tide came in. They disappeared from their parents' sight within minutes.

As dusk fell last night, police continued to comb the four-mile area of coast near Hunstanton, joined by a firemen, coastguards, mountain rescue experts and volunteers. But they found no sign of the children, who cannot swim, and fears grew that they had been swept out to sea.

Their parents, Kevin Loughlin and Lynette Thornton, both 37, from south London, were fighting to come to terms with what had happened.

Superintendent John Hale, who is co-ordinating the search, said there was no indication that the children had been abducted. The search was to be resumed atsunrise today.

"The children's parents have been absolutely amazing," Supt Hale said. "Everything must have gone through their minds, I am sure. But they have nothing to reproach themselves for. Children get separated from their parents on beaches all the time. We know that it only takes a minute."

The family had arrived for a week's holiday in Norfolk on Saturday. Mr Loughlin, a computer consultant, was the last known person to have seen the children and was among searchers who scoured beaches, dunes and woodland for six hours on Sunday night.

One woman holidaymaker, from Cambridgeshire, reported seeing two children who fitted the description of Jodie and Tom playing alone in the surf at around 6.30pm on Sunday, about a mile from where they were last seen. Police are also examining a private video of the scene on the beach on Sunday.

The beach at Holme was particularly busy at the weekend because Hunstanton was celebrating its 150th anniversary. Thousands of families visited the resort, which is famous for its golf course, sandy beaches, coastal resorts and nature reserves.

But Holme is also notorious for its unpredictable waters and uneven sands which has led to swimmers being caught out by the incoming tide.

The incident is the second tragedy involving holidaymakers there in the past two years. An eight-year-old boy from Leicester was buried alive in a sand dune in the resort.

■ The body of a missing eight-year-old boy was found on a beach near Skegness, Lincolnshire, yesterday after a three-hour search by 100 volunteers joined police, coastguards and lifeboat crews in a search. A police spokesman said there were no suspicious circumstances.

# Virus triggers recall of blood products

GLENDA COOPER

Blood products which are used to treat haemophiliacs and burns victims were recalled yesterday after a hepatitis virus was found in the plasma from which they are made.

A donor in a "window" period – when antibodies do not show up in the blood – or a failure in the screening process were the most likely causes of contamination of the plasma pool with traces of the hepatitis C virus.

The National Blood Authority said that recalling the products was precautionary and assured patients that the four batches of factor VIII and albumin would pose no risk to them. The blood products would have gone through viral inactivation processes to make them safe even if they did contain a virus, the NBA said.

Factor VIII is given to haemophiliacs and albumin is used to treat people with burns and shock. The batches, sent out in June and July, contained about 2,000 bottles of factor VIII and 11,500 of albumin.

The problem was revealed by a new extra-sensitive test known as the PCR (polymerase chain reaction), required under European rules for the manufacture of certain types of blood product. Minute traces of hepatitis C were found in the plasma pool from which the products were being made by Bio Products Laboratory (BPL), which is part of the NBA.

The test was carried out on a sample of the plasma that was to be used to make immunoglobulin - an immune system booster used to fight hepatitis and one of the vaccinations commonly given to travellers. The plasma pool had already been used to manufacture factor VIII and albumin.

A spokeswoman for the NBA said: "We consulted the Department of Health and felt in the public interest that this was the right thing to do. If we find any trace of a virus then we don't use the product."

She stressed that there was no chance of the virus posing a health risk. Factor VIII and albumin were processed to knock out any viruses they might contain before they were given to patients, she said. "Patients who have used the products need have no concern about their safety."

She said that the virus could have made its way into the plasma pool if one of the donors had been in a "window" period or if there had been a fault in one of the tests. She said that a full investigation would be carried out to find out how this could have happened.

Gabrielle Page, spokeswoman for the hepatitis C support group, said that the "fragmentation" of the blood service made it easier for mistakes to happen. "Whereas it used to be a body, non-profit making and existing for itself, now that t has to sell off its products and has to become diversified it has changed."

BPL was yesterday contacting its customers asking them to return the blood products, which would be destroyed. The plasma pool would not be used to make any more products.

Hepatitis C is a "silent" disease which may not produce symptoms for 20 years. It was discovered only in 1989 and, without treatment, 25 to 50 per cent of patients develop scarring of the liver and a proportion of those will have liver failure and some will develop liver cancer.

# Filthy hot snap has Britons wheezing

STEPHEN GOODWIN

Air quality in England was at or near the health-warning point yesterday as Mediterranean temperatures combined with exhaust emissions and other pollutants.

Friends of the Earth said Britain was "choking in the worst smog of the summer" but the Department of the Environment judged there was no need to repeat its special notice of six weeks ago, mainly directed at motorists and sufferers from asthma and other problems.

Nitrous oxide pollution was described as "poor" in London – carrying a warning to vulnerable people to avoid strenuous activity – and was nearly as bad in other parts of central and eastern England.

The potentially harmful levels will increase pressure for action to curb traffic in cities when the Government publishes its draft National Air Quality Strategy today.

More ammunition for environmental campaigners was provided by researchers for the British Lung Foundation who said high levels of summer ozone may be damaging the lungs of even healthy individuals.

The researchers, based at Southampton General Hospital, found that the airways of healthy people exposed to ozone pollution became inflamed. The findings suggested people could protect themselves from ozone with antioxidant vitamins like A, C and E.

The DoE air quality forecast for most parts of England was given as "poor" yesterday, though in the event the critical level was only triggered in North Yorkshire.

Nottingham was the hottest spot yesterday, reaching 31.4C. Holidaymakers leaving Heathrow for the Mediterranean were forsaking a baking 31C for a cooler 27C at noon in Nice.

Though the temperature fell short of this year's hottest – 33.1C in Jersey on 22 July and 32.9 at Gravesend on 7 June – the M25 started to melt around junctioo three, where it meets the M20 in Kent.

But the mini-heatwave is almost over. Showers, maybe thundery, are on the way.

**Man of humanity:** Jew had gift of compassion

# Holocaust survivor Rabbi Gryn dies

Andrew Brown
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Rabbi Hugo Gryn, who died yesterday aged 66, was one of the last survivors of the Holocaust to play a role in public life. Only about 100,000 Jews emerged alive from the camps in 1945; yet some of the survivors brought an extraordinary sweetness, as Hugo did, into the world.

Rabbi Gryn, born in the Carpathian mountains, emerged from Auschwitz at the age of 15, with his father who died almost immediately after they were liberated. After working as a rabbi in New York and Bombay, he became rabbi of the West London synagogue in Mayfair, the largest and most fashionable reform Jewish synagogue in England; and in his work on Radio 4's *The Moral Maze* he became one of the most respected religious broadcasters in the country.

Rabbi Gryn's friend and colleague, Rabbi Albert Friedlander, said yesterday that for many of the camp survivors, "it was a very lonely existence, because they were pushed away by the society in which they lived".

Dr Friedlander, who himself came to Britain as a child to escape Nazi persecution, said: "People were afraid of the survivors, or held them in awe, or did not want to know. Elie Wiesel, a camp survivor and writer who won the Nobel peace prize, would say that for many years what would hurt most was that he was not believed."

A disproportionate number of notable camp survivors were writers, partly because the injunction to write and to record was passed down through the camps; partly because writing was a skill which interfered very little with the work of survival. Most of the musicians and artists who entered the camps seem to have perished there.

> 'People who have suffered are much more able to deal with reconciliation'

Dr Friedlander pointed out that most of the greatest writers later killed themselves. "So many of them made major contributions, and then committed suicide – Primo Levi, Paul Celan, Piotr Rawicz, Terence de Pres.

"If it had not been for the Holocaust, I am convinced that none would have committed suicide ... there was a remaining pain trapped inside them, like an embolism. There were withdrawals when they wanted to be left alone. But I knew all those writers, and I found them to be more humane than most."

Dr Friedlander and his wife, Evelyn, who are both active in the work of reconciliation, say survivors in some ways often found it easier to forgive than did others of their generation.

"Hugo was one of the rare people who somehow seemed to rise beyond it," Evelyn Friedlander said. "People who have suffered are much more able to deal with reconciliation. Jews who have had no connection with it can't begin to deal with it; whereas among the people who had suffered there is perhaps a need in themselves to be able to overcome the bitterness."

Dr Friedlander said: "I think the survivors on the whole had much more compassion and understanding. A sizeable number of those people, like Hugo, understood the frailties of people but did not carry around a load of hatred.

"Those people who are the most unforgiving and full of hatred were those who were never in the camps, but will never now buy a Mercedes. Those who were in the camps were sweeter, kinder. Of course, there were many who came out of there totally embittered. But they did not make much of a contribution, and the others did."

Obituary, page 12

# Argos sails into top league

Catalogue retailer has revolutionised the high street, writes **Glenda Cooper**

When the catalogue retailer Argos was launched, its most successful products were a fibre-optic light (£7.95), a carpet-sweeper, (£3.20), a shopping trolley (£3.35) and a spice-wheel (£4.70). The image of a slightly naff, a bit downmarket but phenomenally successful business was set.

Twenty-three years on from its birth, Argos has opened more than 390 stores and is seen as an institution in the high street similar to old favourites like Boots. The group announced yesterday that its turnover was up 18.2 per cent to £561m and profit before tax had increased by 45 per cent.

Their sales method effected a retailing revolution in Britain. Purchased goods do not come off the shelves but are ordered via computer from massive unseen storerooms. The customer fills in a form, takes it to the terminal to pay, receives a receipt and picks up his or her item from the collections desk.

In 1994, Argos also became the first UK chain to use touch-screen technology, which enables customers to process their own purchase and order it from the storerooms.

The idea behind Argos came from America and caught the eye of Richard Tompkins, who had introduced Green Shield stamps in Britain in the early Seventies. He launched the first 17 Argos stores from a London hotel, with much razzmatazz (18 dancers and specially written songs) on 17 July 1973. Sales totalled £6.5m in the first financial year.

Argos's most successful areas are now branded electrical appliances, jewellery and electronics and any suggestion that the Argos name is synonymous with lower-income groups or the less trendy is greeted with fury by the group. "The Argos shoppers have exactly the same demographic profile as the UK," said Janet Hildreth, group public relations manager. "We have shoppers from every single social group."

"Argos is a company with quite a long history," said George Wallace, chief executive of Management Horizons, specialists in retail consultancy. "I think initially it may have been seen as a little bit downmarket. But my view is that it is one of those institutions in retailing which goes across the social and income groups. I think it has really come of age."

For Richard Perks, senior retail analyst at Verdict, the success of Argos in recent years reflects the 1990s *zeitgeist*. And, despite the feelgood factor returning, there is as yet no rush back to the conspicuous consumerism of the Eighties.

"Even though we are going through a consumer upturn, people still respond carefully to the combination of value for money, quality and guaranteed brand names," he said. "At the end of the day, it comes down to the right products at the right price."

Profits bonanza, page 17.

## Lakeside takes the credit

**One of the UK's biggest shopping centres, Lakeside, announced yesterday that it is to become the first to launch its own credit card,** *writes Glenda Cooper.*

**The move is the latest in the increasingly tough competition in the credit-card world. The strategic analysts Datamonitor predicted yesterday that a price war was inevitable with the introductinn of transatlantic competitors and other new entrants such as the supermarket giant Tesco.**

**Lakeside in Thurrock, Essex, has linked up with Midland Bank to introduce the Lakeside Visa Card on 9 September. Shoppers will be given incentives tn open the account including a £10 Lakeside gift voucher and the card, which has no annual fee, can be used at more than 12 million Visa outlets worldwide as well as in stores in the centre.**

# Rebuff on water cuts

The Government yesterday rejected a call from doctors to make the disconnection of water supplies illegal because of the risk to public health.

Cutting off water to homes could lead to the spread of diseases such as dysentery and hepatitis A, the British Medical Association warned.

The Department of Health said there was no evidence of a danger to health. A spokesman said: "We have never been able to establish any direct relationship between water disconnection and the spread of communicable diseases in the UK."

The company with the largest number of disconnections last year, Thames Water, defended its right to cut off persistent non-payers. A spokeswoman for the company, which made 1,047 disconnections in 1995-96, said cutting off supplies remained a last resort, but added: "We have to distinguish between those people who can't pay and those who won't pay."

In Scotland and Northern Ireland disconnections are already illegal, forcing companies to recover debts without cutting water. The BMA argues there is no reason why the same policy should not be adopted in England, where disconnections have been allowed since 1945.

According to the latest report from the water watchdog, Ofwat, supplies to 5,862 homes in England and Wales were cut off last year because of unpaid bills. That was the lowest level since 1988-89.

Dr Sarah Taylor, a consultant in public health and a member of the BMA's board of science, said: "The fact that the water companies were so easily able to reduce the total numbers of disconnections proves that this approach to debt collection is completely unnecessary, apart from being a danger to public health."

Disconnections made it impossible to take basic hygiene measures, to prepare food safely or to flush the lavatory, she said.

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INDEPENDENT • TUESDAY

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# To improve the ride, every Mercedes C-class has a luxury interior.

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# Blair's promises fail to soften Northern grit

What does business and industry foresee from a Labour government? **Diane Coyle** investigates in Lancashire

**Streetwise: The cobbled path to James Halstead in Bury. Since 1979 manufacturing jobs in the region have halved** Photograph: Phil Noble/Newsteam

It takes a drive down a cobbled street into a scene that could have been painted by Lowry to reach the turn-of-the-century, red brick factory of James Halstead Ltd, a Bury-based manufacturer of vinyl flooring. It would be hard to feel more removed from the corridors of Westminster than this.

But it is the reactions of the managers running businesses like these that will determine whether Labour's policies for manufacturing will work, after a period that has seen jobs in the sector almost halve since 1979 and recent investment run in real terms at below the level achieved then.

The three key planks of the policy – a stable economy, the encouragement of long-term investment and improved skills – are uncontentious. The specific twists – changing the structure of capital gains tax, for example – are more so.

Yet oo the whole, businesses do not object to these Labour priorities. Nor, however, do they think these are things a Labour government could deliver, or at least deliver any hetter than the Tories.

Roy Murphy, James Halstead's managing director, is not especially hostile to Labour. He just thinks, like many businessmen, that the best thing government can do for industry is precisely nothing. "The only thing that has affected my investment decisions is whether we had a good business case. Is it necessary and is there a payhack?" he says.

Low inflation and interest rates are crucial, he says. It is a widely-shared opinion. A few miles from Halstead's lies Chadwicks, a Swedish-owned manufacturer of food packaging. Its managing director, Stephen Crow, underlines that a £4m piece of equipment can take well over two years to deliver and install. "German businesses have been able to predict what interest rates and inflation would be in four years' time. For the first time in my working life there is a culture of stable inflation in this country. It makes long-term investment much more viable." But he trusts the Conservatives more than Labour to deliver that. "I'm sure I could live with Tony Blair if he's as good as his word. But I don't believe he can control his left wing."

There is surprisingly little enthusiasm for the temporary extra capital allowances which Gordon Brown has proposed – even at P&P, a high-tech computer services company a few miles north of Bury which represents the new face of North-west business. But John Atkin, its finance director says his firm's major overhead is the continuous training needed to keep pace with that change.

"We have to train all the time, and if the Government is prepared to subsidise us for it, that's great. We would welcome more encouragement for training."

He, however, is suspicious of Labour's desire to implement the EU Social Chapter – a distrust that is near universal among businessmen who believe that the new flexibility of the UK labour market has given them an advantage over Continental competitors.

Halstead's employs up to 30 temporary contract workers out of a total of about 500 and uses overtime extensively to vary output. "Other European firms would give their right arm for that benefit," Roy Murphy says.

But there is surprisingly little objection to the minimum wage. Smaller companies are the most worried. DRM is a family-owned textiles business, making up items for the health service and commercial laundries. Its staff of machinists is mainly female, employed on piece work, earning £4 to £5 an hour, depending on productivity – a differential which a legal minimum makes harder to maintain. Peter McGuinness, its managing director, says: "We had to spend a lot of effort making sure the wages council agreements were followed. Since their abolition, employees have not suffered and it has freed up a lot of our time."

Mr McGuinness's top priority for government action, however, is the benefits trap. There are three single mothers on his staff, and one who has just quit. "Caroline could make £180 or £200 a week before tax working here, or £140 a week with no tax on benefits. People like her end up in a position where working does them no good. They can't better themselves."

Businesses identify other pressing problems. Agreement on the failure of the education system to deliver an adequate workforce is unanimous. Mr McGuinness says he does not hire school leavers. "We're better off taking people who are more mature and know you have to turn up to work on time." School-leavers arrive thinking 50 per cent is a good mark in an exam. They cannot adjust to quality targets that have to be met nearly 100 per cent of the time, he says.


Blair dashes public sector's hopes

**The *Independent* yesterday. But what about the bosses?**

Perhaps the biggest encouragement for Labour is how pro-European the Northerners are. They see the Government's split over Europe as damaging their interests.

While businesses in Bury think they can do business with Labour, the biggest task facing Tony Blair and Gordon Brown is one they can probably only fulfil in office – making the business community trust them. Labour says it will run a stable, low-inflation economy. These businessmen will believe that when they see it.



# Opt-out schools plan centres for problem pupils

**FRAN ABRAMS**
Education Correspondent

Dozens of grant maintained schools are keen to open special units for disruptive children, it emerged yesterday. The centres could charge fees to look after other schools' problem pupils.

Plans to allow opted-out schools to run separate facilities for trouble-makers, announced by the Prime Minister last September, have proved very popular.

As well as bringing some schools extra income, they will prevent high levels of exclusion, which school inspectors dislike.

The Government is likely to offer £1m over the next three years to opted-out schools which want to run school-based centres for pupils who might otherwise be excluded. Instead of being told they must seek another school place, problem children will be allowed to stay oo their school's roll but will be taught separately.

Officials at the Department for Education and Employment have received 61 expressions of interest and 15 firm bids from opted-out schools keen to join the scheme.

John Major announced last year that he would like to see opted-out schools running these centres, and the idea was mentioned in a White Paper in June. Ministers are also considering legislation to let groups of grant maintained schools jointly set up special units for pupils with problems.

However, plans for single-school centres to open next January are already well advanced, with bids for the funds due in by the end of September. Until now, most units for disruptive children have been run by local authorities and have been for those who have already been excluded.

There are no plans to allow grant maintained schools to run boarding facilities for pupils with behavioural problems, though. There had been reports that new centres surrounded by barbed wire would help to contain those children.

Sir Bob Balchin, chairman of the Grant Maintained Schools Trust, said the moves would be welcomed by schools.

"There is a small percentage of disruptive pupils in our schools who cause mayhem out of proportion to their numbers," he said. "It is right that they should be off-site where they cannot damage the education of the 97 per cent who want to learn."

Cecil Knight, head teacher of the grant maintained Small Heath School in Birmingham, also welcomed the plans, though he said an internal unit which been had run for many years for pupils at his own school was being disbanded.

"We found it was rather an expensive way of dealing with it, but there were clearly some heads who want it," he said. "The idea is that if you take on a youngster from another school they would pay. You aren't going to make a huge profit but you could certainly cover your expenses."

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# A star is born as America finds its Emma

Hollywood touch: Gwyneth Paltrow as the eponymous Emma, with Toni Collette as her protégée, Harriet Smith Photograph: David Appleby/Miramax

**DAVID LISTER**
Arts News Editor

Jane Austen fever is once again sweeping America. A new film of *Emma*, which opens in Britain next month, has thrilled Americans from the President downwards. It follows the Oscar triumph of *Sense and Sensibility* and the critically acclaimed BBC export of *Pride And Prejudice*.

But the success of *Emma* is the biggest surprise. There was some consternatioo in Britain, not only among Jane-ites, when the American producers Miramax cast the 23-year-old Hollywood starlet Gwyneth Paltrow in the title role.

Best known over here for heing the girlfriend of the actor Brad Pitt and appearing opposite him in the thriller, *Seven*, the American, untested in classical roles, seemed an odd choice to play Austen's matchmaker.

However, Paltrow, has proved a triumph in the role, with an understated and whimsical performance which has had audiences in Los Angeles and New York cheering. Last weekeod it took $2.5m and its takings per screen are bigger than those for the blockbuster, *Independence Day*. British distributors expect the film to be one of the biggest hits of the aotumn.

*Time* magazine said with this performance, "Gwyneth Paltrow emerges as the most elegant actress of her generation". She is joined by a largely British cast, with Jeremy Northam as her mentor, Mr Knightley, and supporting performances from Alan Cumming, Juliet Stevenson, Greta Scacchi, Polly Walker, Ewan McGregor, and show-stealing performances from real-life daughter and mother, Sophie Thompson and Phyllida Law, as the garrulous Miss Bates and her mother.

Miss Thompsoo as Miss Bates, "a great talker on little matters" as Austen describes the character, has the most poignant moment of the film as the anguish and pain on her face are palpable when Emma insults her at the picnic. The film is adapted and directed by Douglas McGrath, an American who co-wrote *Bullets Over Broadway* with Woody Allen.

After the rave review in the American press, President Clintoo requested a private screening at the White House where he sat oext to Paltrow. He told McGrath afterwards that he was a Jane Austen fan. McGrath said: "One of his many feelings of affectioo for England is that he proposed to Hillary for the first time in the Lake District. She finally succumbed back in romantic Arkansas."

McGrath added that President Clinton asked Paltrow how she had perfected her English accent, telling her that while studying at Oxford "he would go to tea parties just to listen to the musical way the women spoke, and the film brought that back".

Paltrow, the daughter of the actress Blythe Danner and the television producer Bruce Paltrow, is described by McGrath as "the next Meryl Streep. Men adore and women love her but don't envy her. She has a beauty you don't feel threatened by".

She now looks set to corner the market, at least temporarily, in British classic heroines. She is currently filming the role of Estella in a remake of *Great Expectations*.

# Last Great War poet dies at 103

**MARIANNE MACDONALD**
Arts Correspondent

The last surviving poet of the First World War has died at the age of 103.

Geoffrey Dearmer, who together with Wilfred Owen and Siegfried Sassoon transmuted the horror of the Great War into eloquent verse, died on Sunday night at his home in Birchington, near Margate, Kent.

He published two acclaimed collections of poetry after the war and, although his work has oot had the lasting power of Owen or Sassoon, he is remembered for poems such as "The Seotinel" and "The Somme".

His fame in the inter-war years is apparent from Robert McBride's review of his 1918 *Poems* in the *New York Times*. "This is the first book of a young Eoglish soldier-poet whose work has aroused the admiration of English critics everywhere. Mr Dearmer is, *par excellence*, a poet of the war," he wrote.

Dearmer was born in 1893, the same year as Wilfred Owen. He was made a second lieutenant in the London Regiment of the Royal Fusiliers on joining up in 1914. He survived what he called the "needless horror of the Dardanelles" – a nightmare compounded by the death of a much-loved brother at Gallipoli – and then experienced the trauma of the Western Front. But, unlike Owen, he made it through the war.

His father, Percy Dearmer, was a London vicar who eveotually became a Canon of Westminster and edited hymn books including the *English Hymnal* and *Songs of Praise*. His mother, Mabel, wrote childreo's books, novels and plays before dying of enteric fever in 1915 while serving with an ambulance unit in Serbia.

Wheo the war ended, Dearmer cootinued to write poetry, as well as plays and oovels. He was notoriously modest and took little interest in keeping copies of his works or press ootices.

He weot on to join the BBC where he worked for many years and was a highly respected director of *Children's Hour*.

Dearmer leaves a daughter, the Rev Juliet Woollcombe, of Pershore, Worcestershire.

Obituary, page 12

## DAILY POEM

### A Prayer

By Geoffrey Dearmer

*Lord, keep him near to me:*
*Revive his image, let my darkening sight*
*Renew his life by death intensified*
*(His beating life so pitifully tried)*
*That we may face the night*
*And shade the agony.*

*We pray in barren stress*
*Where stricken men await the shrill alarm*
*And nightly watch, in silent order set,*
*The beckoning stars enshrine the parapet.*
*Lord, keep his soul from harm*
*And grant him happiness.*

*When all the world is free,*
*And, cleansed and purified by floods of pain*
*We turn, and see the light in human eyes;*
*When the last echo of War's thunder dies;*
*Lord, let us pause again*
*In silent memory.*

Gallipoli, October 1915

"A Prayer" is reproduced in *A Pilgrim's Song*, a collection of selected poems by Geoffrey Dearmer published by John Murray to mark the poet's 100th birthday.

# international

# Saxony battles Brussels in VW subsidy row

IMRE KARACS
*Zwickau*

The robots on the assembly line and their human assistants do not have much time to worry about Europe's future.

Every two minutes another car body arrives on its spiralling journey around the hall of the cavernous Volkswagen factory, each completing the course in 20 hours.

The new plant at the edge of *Zwickau is the pride of the company* and the most potent symbol of eastern Germany's renaissance.

Its fame is spreading far and wide, but in the wake of fame has come envy, turning its vaunted efficiency into a source of embarrassment.

The European Commission has ruled that VW must return the subsidies it received from the region of Saxony and said the case may touch off a "subsidy war" if left unchallenged.

"We are confronted here with an illegal situation. If VW spends the money, we can only take this to the *European Court* of Justice," the Competition Commissioner, Karel van Miert, said.

But the *Land* Prime Minister, Kurt Biedenkopf, told Brussels to mind its own business. He has handed over part of the sum and is threatening to sue the Commission. Saxony's defiance has put Germany on a collision course with Europe.

If Europe holds firm, VW *threatens to move farther* east, to countries in Central Europe beyond the Commission's reach.

"I think that if the right decision is not given, Volkswagen must consider taking its production elsewhere," said the Zwickau plant's *spokesman*, Gunter Sandmann. He said it was not a bluff, in what has become a spectacular game of poker.

At stake are 3,000 jobs at Zwickau and Chemnitz near by and 10 times as many working for outside contractors, the suppliers that feed the assembly lines "just in time", and the service sector.

The plant's importance to the local economy is unquestionable. The rubble of the old Trabant factory has been cleared away but Zwickau's streets are still lined with derelict red-brick workshops and industrial monuments of a bygone era. A third of the pre-1990 population of 140,000 fled to wealthier parts in the west, yet unemployment still stands at 17 per cent, not counting those on temporary job-creation programmes.

"Volkswagen gave us the only great hope here after the changes," said Jens Rothe, a former Trabant worker and then fitter-turned-chairman of the works council at the new plant.

Mr Rothe, 26, recently attended his school's 10-year reunion. About 20 per cent of his former classmates have gone west and 15 to 20 per cent are on the dole.

The only other industrial employers in the former factory town are the brewery and a chemical plant that keeps shedding its work-force.

It sounds bleak but Zwickau is one of eastern Germany's success stories, and Saxony the main engine of the former German Democratic Republic's resurgence. Away from the warehouses, the spruced-up town centre oozes prosperity, shops, restaurants and hotels wallowing in money sucked in by the factory on its northern edge. A few Trabants discreetly parked in sidestreets are all that remind inhabitants of their inglorious tradition. In place of stores devoid of consumer goods, residents are spoilt by modern malls, showrooms for air conditioning systems and Mercedes dealerships. Six years after reunification, the town is in danger of yuppification. Prices are significantly lower than in the west, the service incomparably better.

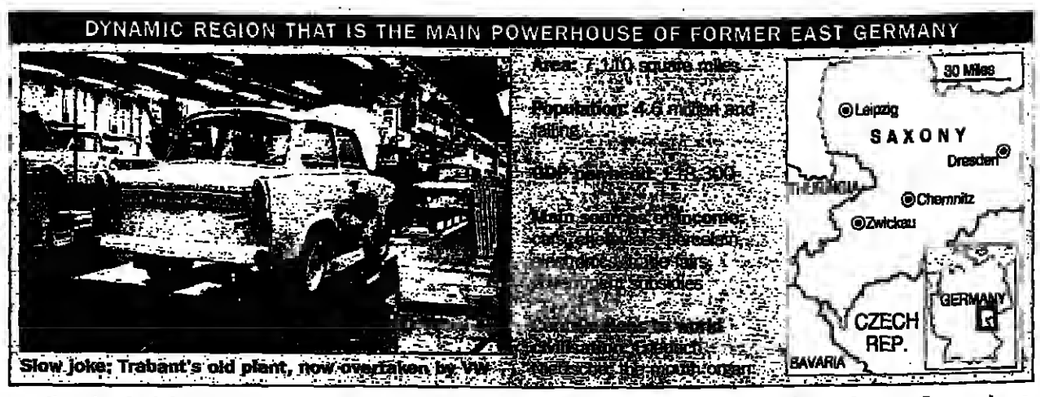
The future of the region seems bright. Siemens is building a DM4bn (£1.8bn) microchip factory in Dresden, the Saxon capital, while investment pouring into *Leipzig* is set to transform it into one of Europe's great trade centres. Motorways and high-speed rail networks are coming, the new telecommunications system is state of the art, and energy and water networks built to cope with soaring demand are nearly complete. Saxony's cultural scene, too, is throbbing with excitement. In short, *it is* not the sort of place, the EU argues, which needs vast amounts of taxpayers' money to stay afloat. Shortly after 1990 the Commission approved the full VW investment package, which the company then suspended during the slump in 1992-93.

Now VW wants to complete the project, to make the plant ready for production of the new Passat in autumn and the updated Golf model that will start rolling off next year.

The buildings already stand, but without new equipment they, and the rest of the plant, are useless. The sum in question is DM1bn, of which Saxony is prepared to pay DM750m. The Commission says that is DM240m too much.

The Saxons are adamant that the Commission is not fit to make such a decision. "If you are in Brussels, you can't tell if some region needs five million marks to help stop unemployment," argued Mr Biedenkopf, in the most forceful demonstration yet of what the Germans mean by the word "federalism".

DYNAMIC REGION THAT IS THE MAIN POWERHOUSE OF FORMER EAST GERMANY




Slow joke: Trabant's old plant, now overtaken by VW

# Perot saves his billions and seeks contributions

RUPERT CORNWELL
Washington

THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS 96

In a surprise opening gambit to his 1996 White House bid, the billionaire Ross Perot said yesterday he would rely for money on federal funds and contributions from individual supporters – a signal that he plans to make the reform of campaign finance a central theme of his uphill quest for the presidency.

"I want to show Washington *that millions* of people will contribute to a cause they believe is in the best interest of the country," Mr Perot said, explaining why he would not draw upon his own fortune of an estimated $3bn.

That cause, as during his first presidential run four years ago, still revolves around Mr Perot's insistence on balancing the federal budget. He is already mocking the promise by the Republican candidate Bob Dole of a $548bn across-the-board tax cut as an example of "Washington at its worst". But with President Bill Clinton able to boast that the deficit is now at its lowest since the Carter years, campaign finance reform will come a close second as an issue.

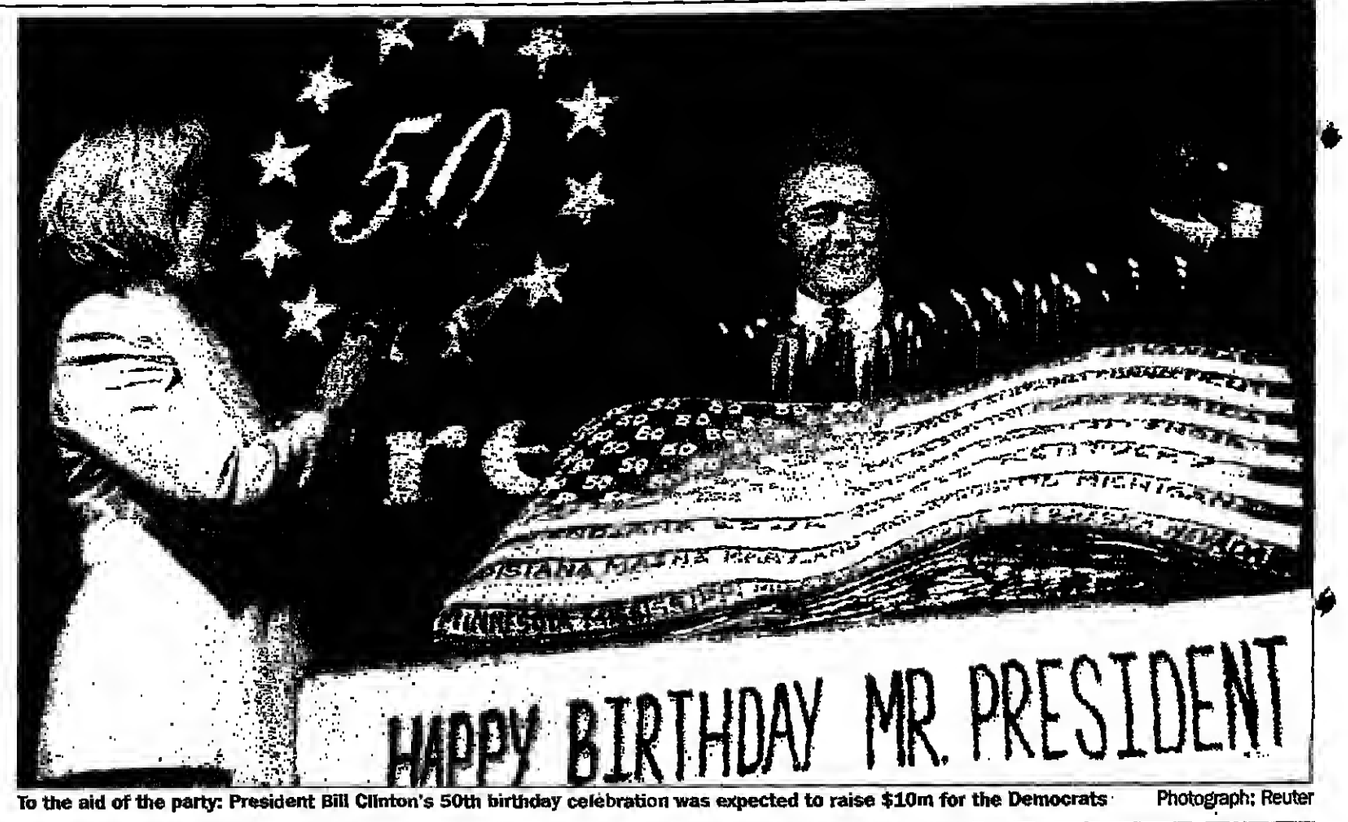
Since 1992 Mr Perot has already lavished about $80m on his political ambitions, starting with his attempt that year for the *White House, and his* subsequent creation of the Reform Party, whose candidate he is and which is likely to be on the ballot in all 50 states this autumn.

Mr Perot's decision means he is entitled to $29m of federal funds, a sum based on the 19 per cent of the popular vote he won four years ago. But he will be permitted to spend only $50,000 of his own money, and will therefore have to raise $33m in small individual donations, as he is entitled to do, if he is to match the $62m available to the Clinton and Dole campaigns.

Making that task harder, Mr Perot also says he will refuse contributions by political action committees, a prime source of finance from corporations and special interest groups which he declares to be a scourge of Washington.

Yet as the Republican convention in San Diego showed - and its Democratic counterpart in Chicago will shortly show, corporate money flows as fast as ever. Half the $30m cost of the San Diego convention has been met by companies. "You *saw the yachts, the special* interest events," Mr Perot said on CNN's Larry King show. "You don't *think* these guys want something in return?"

The conventional wisdom is that Mr Perot has no chance of repeating his 1992 performance. Erstwhile Perot supporters, it is said, are now likely to return to the Republicans and Bob Dole, visibly re-energized by the success of the convention and the impact of his vice-presidential choice, Jack Kemp. Mr Perot by contrast has yet to find a credible running mate. But if he can, then he may yet win enough votes to tip the outcome.




To the aid of the party: President Bill Clinton's 50th birthday celebration was expected to raise $10m for the Democrats Photograph: Reuter



# Bosnia refugees in poll limbo

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY
*Sarajevo*

Almost a million displaced people in Bosnia are unlikely to be able to return to their homes to vote in the country's elections, officials in Sarajevo said yesterday. The news reinforces fears that Bosnia's division into two parts may prove irreversible despite the best intentions of the Dayton agreement.

The director general of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Jeff Fischer, who is supervising the 14 September elections, suggested that if the displaced people were unable to return to their former homes, facilities might be provided elsewhere for them to vote for candidates in the areas that they had fled to. About 850,000 people, out of a total electorate of some 3 million, are displaced.

Mr Fischer's suggestions prompted speculation that alternative polling stations might be set up along the 600-mile border between the two entities in Bosnia, but senior officials were quick to play that down.

Senior sources in the OSCE and in the peace implementation force, I-For, said Bosnian voters would probably realise it was not in their interest to vote in, or for, areas where there was no chance they would live again. Muslims returning to a home in Srebrenica, a former Muslim town now in Republika Srpska, for example, would find no Muslim candidates. Similarly, Serbs returning to the Muslim-Croat federation would be unable to vote for Serb candidates.

The Dayton peace agreement endorsed the right to vote in one's former home area, but I-For has effectively admitted it cannot ensure the safe return of displaced persons. Officials are confident most people will vote from their present location.

Some observers in Sarajevo yesterday condemned the idea of giving up the right to return home, saying it enshrined the division of Bosnia. However, I-For sources believe the return of refugees to small isolated enclaves could restart the conflict.

Wherever the refugees cast their votes, on 14 September Bosnia will elect a three-person presidency, an all-Bosnia assembly, and separate assemblies for the Muslim-Croat federation and Republika Srpska. Voters will also elect a president for Republika Srpska, 10 cantonal assemblies for the federation, and about 150 local councils.

It is as if, on the same day, Britons voted for a new monarch, for assemblies in England, Scotland and Wales, for a monarch of Scotland, for deputies for 10 regional assemblies in England, and in local elections.

# Australian parliament stormed in cuts protest

ROBERT MILLIKEN
Sydney

Amid scenes unprecedented in Australia, dozens of chanting rioters yesterday stormed Parliament House in Canberra, smashing its front doors and leaving its public entrance hall spattered with blood. They threw acid and urine at more than 300 riot police who were *called in to control the violence.* It erupted when about 25,000 trade union members and Aborigines marched on Parliament House to protest against the federal government's plans to cut public spending and reduce union power.

More than 60 police were injured, 50 people were arrested and Parliament House's entrance, marble hall and souvenir shop were turned into a battle zone. A hard-core of leaders had pushed against the front doors, smashed windows *and ripped iron rods from walls* to use as battering rams. John Howard, the Australian Prime Minister, whose conservative Liberal-National coalition government is due to deliver its first budget today, toured the site and called the episode "a very *sad and unhappy day in the life* of the Australian parliament".

"What occurred was un-Australian. It was ugly. It endangered the physical well-being of men and women in the Australian Federal Police and Parliament House staff," he said. "I want to make it perfectly clear that never, under any circumstances, will my government buckle to threats of physical violence or behaviour of this kind."

Mr Howard cancelled talks *on the budget he had been due* to hold with the Australian Council of Trade Unions. He said that although he did not blame the council directly for the riot, the council had sponsored the rally that sparked the violence.

*Thousands of union members* and other community groups from all over Australia had arrived in Canberra for what was billed as one of the biggest union protests the capital has seen. It turned into a violent and bloody end to 13 years of industrial peace that had accompanied the former Labor government's "accords" with the union movement.

Since its election last March, Mr Howard's coalition has announced plans to reform industrial relations by replacing collective wage bargaining with individual workplace contracts. There have been violent demonstrations at various industrial sites over the past few days, especially in Melbourne.

The government plans to use today's budget as the first shot in a strategy to cut up to A$8bn (£4bn) from public spending. Some of those caught up in the riot were Aborigines protesting at an 11 per cent cut in spending on indigenous Australians.

Bloodied: A protester confronts a policeman during yesterday's riot in Canberra Photograph: Reuter

# Manila and rebels hail end of war

Malabang (Reuter) – President Fidel Ramos of the Philippines and the Muslim leader Nur Misuari embraced each other yesterday, declaring that a war which has killed 120,000 Filipinos was over. "We have agreed to ... restore peace," said Mr Misuari, chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front.

The meeting was meant to help finalise a plan that has attracted opposition from the Christian majority on the main southern Philippine island of Mindanao. Some groups have threatened to take up arms against the pact, scheduled to be signed at the end of the month. In his speech Mr Ramos said he would not tolerate violent opposition to the pact, which involves setting up a peace and development council with Mr Misuari as its head.

Mr Misuari referred to problems that needed to be ironed out before the pact could be put into effect, although he did not specify them. "The council is ... Ramos's baby, not mine. It is up to the President to nurture this baby to maturity." The pact envisages the council as a prelude to an expanded, Muslim-led autonomous region covering 14 southern provinces.

Muslims regard Mindanan and its nearby islands as their traditional homeland, even though they are in a minority there following decades of Christian migration.

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# 'This man was freed from prison after three years and began again with the little girls'

**Louise Jury** on the anger in Sars-la-Buissière at the deaths of children in their midst

The little girls' faces stare out from the posters. But the appeals for help in finding them have been replaced with two simple words: never again.

As the investigations in Belgium's own house of horror continued yesterday, anger was mounting.

When missing girls Laetitia Delhez, 14, and Sabine Dardenne, 12, were found alive in a makeshift concrete dungeon last Thursday, there was rejoicing. Joy turned to shock, however, when the bodies of eight-year-olds Julie Lejeune and Mélissa Russo were exhumed from the garden of convicted rapist Marc Dutroux in Sars-la-Buissière on Saturday. Their faces had become familiar to all from posters their families had distributed around the country in a desperate attempt to find them. Now the same photographs are on every newspaper's front page.

As the full horror of the child sex scandal became apparent, the mood turned angry. There was fury at Melchior Wathelet, the former Minister of Justice, who allowed the early release from jail of Dutroux, the 39-year-old electrician at the centre of a suspected paedophile ring.

There was bafflement that the police could have visited Dutroux's home in Sars-la-Buissière near Charleroi in the south of the country and failed to find anything – even when he was arrested and served time for robbery last year.

But most of all there was a raging hatred for Dutroux himself, his second wife Michelle Martin – who was formally charged yesterday with being an accomplice in the abduction and illegal imprisonment of children – and the rest of the gang who have violated children in a country where the family is held sacred. A fourth person, Brussels businessman Jean-Michel Nihoul, is due to appear in court today.

"He should die," said Coralo Sacra, as she gazed at the rising mound of flowers at the drive to Dutroux's home. "For the sake of those little children, he has killed them and he must die. It isn't normal what he did."

It was a sentiment echoed throughout the village, whose 700 citizens can scarcely believe what was going on in their midst.

Dutroux had moved to the village with Ms Martin three or four years ago after his early release on good behaviour from a 13-year sentence for rape.

He had no acquaintances in the village and was regarded as a thief. When items went missing, they had the uncanny knack of finding their way to his house. It was robbery that put him away for the few crucial months last year when Melissa and Julie starved to death in his cellar.

Dutroux: At the centre of a suspected paedophile ring

"We knew he was a thief but nobody knew he was convicted for rape. People feel they should have been told. Everybody is shocked," said neighbour William Capian.

When Dutroux was arrested last Tuesday, people at first thought it was connected to the assorted vehicles of dubious origin he kept in his yard.

As outrage mounts, fuelled by fear that another six children missing in Belgium since 1989 may also have lost their lives to paedophiles, a clear demand is emerging: justice. For some, that is the return of the death penalty, which was formally abolished in 1991. But most want the guilty to stay inside for a very long time.

Alfred Vilain and his wife Alphonsa, had travelled from Lons carrying a petition demanding a penalty to be introduced which was fitting for crimes so incomprehensible. More than a thousand people have signed so far.

"People in Belgium are very angry," Mr Vilain said. "This man was in prison before and he was free after three years inside and began again with the little girls."

Mohammed Taleb, who lives in a village nearby, hugged his two children tightly as he said: "It's horrible. Everybody wants to kill him."

André Levacq, the local mayor, said they all felt sadness and revulsion. "For crimes like paedophilia, any attempt on the life, or security or health of children, people who are found guilty should stay in prison for the whole of their sentence," he said.

"We don't want to go back to the Middle Ages, we don't want anything extreme. But we do want justice."

Meanwhile Gloucestershire police, who investigated the Cromwell Street murder inquiry which led to the discovery of the remains of 10 young women and girls at the Gloucester homes of builder Frederick West and his wife Rosemary, were asked yesterday to give advice on the Sars-la-Buissière case.

Mark of respect: People gather to sign a book of mourning for murdered schoolgirls Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo Photograph: AFP

# Paedophiles who prey on youngsters worldwide

Internet aids information exchange on victims, reports **Jason Bennetto**

**The investigation into an alleged paedophile ring operating from Belgium highlights the growing phenomenon of the international child abuser.**

**The discovery of the bodies of two eight-year-old girls in a garden in southern Belgium is the latest child-sex scandal to hit the country. A former official from the Justice Ministry and the director of a children's charity were among 16 people convicted in Belgium's biggest child-sex case.**

**Police and experts on sex offending have noted the development of international links between paedophile groups.**

Ray Wyre, an adviser on sexual abuse for the British-based Lucy Faithfull Foundation, said paedophile cells operated throughout Europe, and can range from a few people to about 20 abusers. "We have seen a resurgence of paedophiles in Europe. Often they meet via clubs, Holland is particularly popular, or through personal contacts," he said.

In December last year a former Briton living in Belgium died from a heart attack before reaching court on child-sex charges. John Stamford, 56, was due to face charges in Belgium alleging he provided information on child prostitutes to paedophiles around the world.

Stamford was alleged to have used a homosexual travel guide, *Spartacus*, as a front for a mailing service offering information on child prostitution in Thailand, Brazil and the Philippines. The organisation was alleged to have operated through a box number in London. The details of each of the members, including their sexual preferences, the desired age of the children and preferred countries of origin were stored on a computer. The members received personalised lists of children.

Paedophile groups, of which there are an estimated 200 in Britain, will go to great lengths to cultivate the trust of their victims. This was illustrated last month when Steven Mitchell, 44, from Walton-on-Thames, became the first Briton to be convicted in the Philippines under new laws aimed at "sex tourists". Mitchell was jailed for 17 years after he was found guilty of sexually molesting two boys, aged eight and four. He had befriended a poor Filipino couple and paid for improvements to their house in order to gain access to their sons.

An estimated 200,000 Nepalese children have been sold into sexual slavery in India; in Thailand up to a quarter of a million children work in brothels; and in Colombia one third of prostitutes are thought to be under 14.

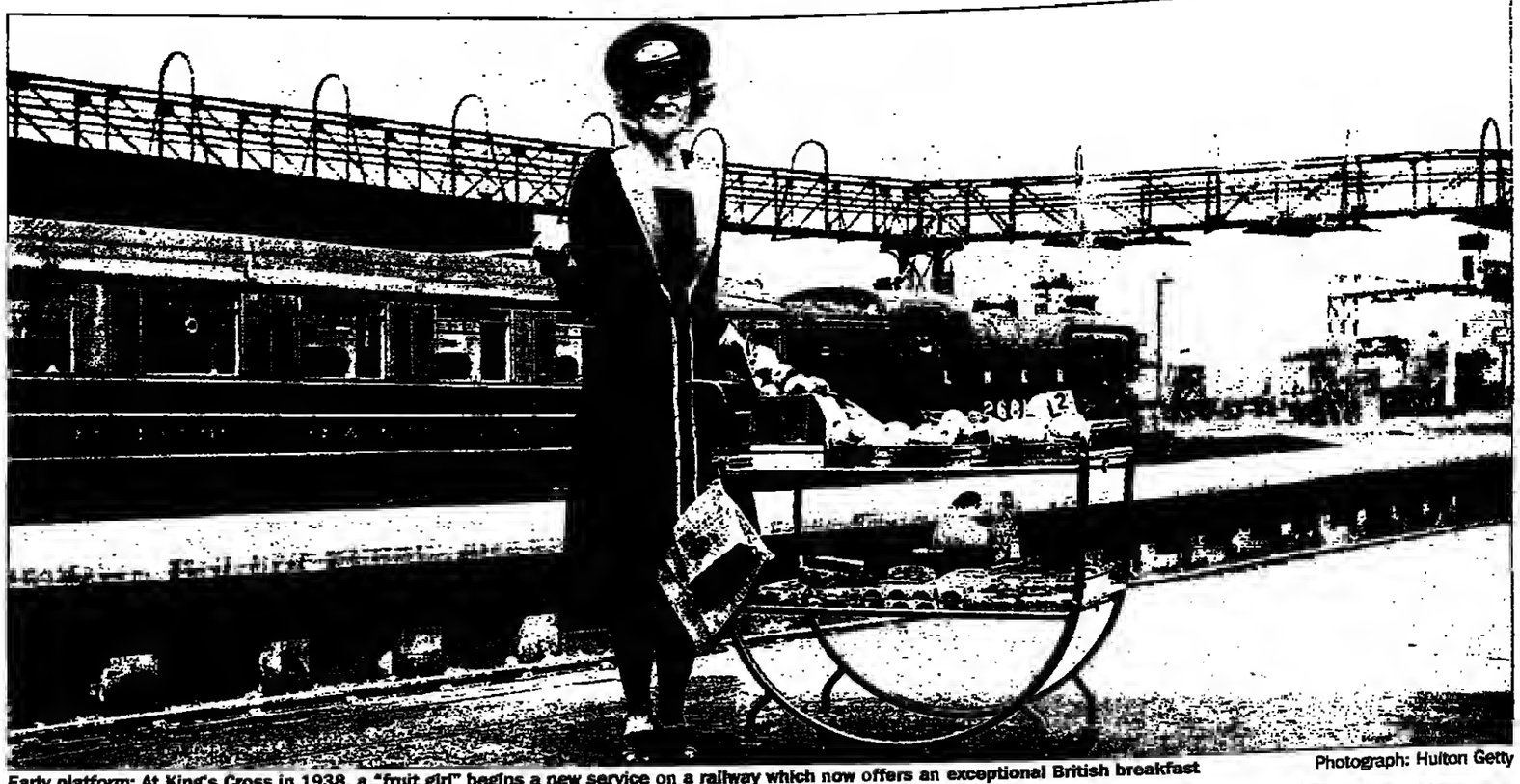
But it is the Internet which many police officers believe is becoming the biggest danger, as paedophiles use it to transfer detailed information about children.

Belgium's worst case involving paedophiles came to court in 1988 when 16 people, including the former head of the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund for Belgium, were sentenced for up to 10 years in jail. Several adults who had lent their children to adults for sex were among the defendants. Phillipe Carpentier, a former Justice Ministry official, was sentenced to nine years.

international

# The great InterCity breakfast is now departing for Europe

**Nicholas Faith** tells how a revolution in rail catering at home has derailed the once legendary French fayre



Early platform: At King's Cross in 1938, a "fruit girl" begins a new service on a railway which now offers an exceptional British breakfast

Photograph: Hulton Getty

RIDING THE IRON ROAD

There can be few more splendid places to start the day than the dining car of the early morning Edinburgh to London train. As it roars down the coast of Northumberland, waves crashing on the shore below, the full and elaborate works of a British breakfast is delivered, fresh from the kitchen. It is a magnificent feast.

This may soon be available more widely. OBS Services, the company which runs the catering for InterCity trains, is seeking to take its wares to Europe. A few years ago, the idea of British railway food being exported would have seemed lunacy, threatening even. But quite unnoticed, there has been something of a revolution. In Britain railway food is vastly improved, while in France, traditional home of *la grande gastronomie ferroviaire*, it has gone totally downhill.

It has taken nearly 150 years for British railway caterers to live down their reputation. Charles Dickens wrote a short story which centres on the buffet at the mythical *Mugby Junction* and his description would be instantly recognisable to anyone who travelled by rail within Britain until the 1980s. The narrator tells a benighted traveller "there is a refreshment room" at Mugby Junction, "but it's a blessed circumstance for you that it's not open". Later in the story the "Boy at Mugby" describes with great glee the "stale pastry", the "sawdust sandwiches" the "ha, ha, ha, – the sherry", the appalling offhandedness of the barmaids, and the magnificent, deliberate incompetence of Mrs Sniff who "did hold the public in check most beautiful. In all my time, I never see half so many cups of tea given without milk to people as wanted it with".

In another story, *A Flight* – describing a trip from London to Paris in a mere 11 hours via the newly opened railway from London to Folkestone – Dickens had already expressed his approval of the arrangements in a French refreshment room: "Large hall, long counter, long strips of dining-table, bottles of wine, plate of meat, roast chickens, little loaves of bread, basins of soup, little carafes of brandy, cakes and fruit."

In most countries "railway food" has generally been a term of approval. Switzerland's first railway was known as the "brotli-bahn" because it brought fresh *brotli* – rolls – from Baden to Zurich in time for breakfast. In the United States the railways played a positive role in spreading civilised dining, most famously through the efforts of a former freight agent called Fred Harvey. In 1875 he persuaded the Santa Fe railroad to let him manage a small restaurant in Topska. He called it Harvey House, a name which became famous for civilised eating throughout the whole sprawling Santa Fe system west from Topeka to Kansas to Los Angeles. From the beginning Harvey determined to maintain only the highest standards of food, drink and delicacy of presentation – his first step was to hire a chef from the Palmer House in Chicago, supposedly America's finest hotel.

Today he is best remembered for the Harvey Girls, the highly respectable and presentable waitresses he employed, most of whom stayed only a few months before marrying, generally very well. In the 1930s they and Harvey were accorded the greatest of accolades, a musical named *The Harvey Girls*, starring Judy Garland, with a song which remains a show-stopper, "The Atchison Topeka and the Santa Fe".

Food invariably loomed large in any railway journey, especially those in undeveloped countries, and many otherwise obscure stops became famous (or infamous) for their dining facilities. At Voi weary travellers from Mombasa to Nairobi dined in a bungalow which Charles Miller in the book *Lunatic Express* said "looked every bit the oasis with its wine stewards, white-jacketed waiters and barmen". The main course "almost invariably consisted of iron boiled beef, rubber mashed potatoes and something that the menu called cabbage", the whole "garnished with insects".

But primitive lines did not necessarily involve poor eating. On the Trans-Caspian line that most pernickety of travellers, George Curzon, thoroughly approved of "first-rate tea at 1d a glass" and equally cheap, fresh grapes and melons. In Japan, each station prided itself on its own special lunch-boxes. A lady living at the otherwise obscure station of Yokokawa invented "kamameshi", a combination of rice packed with boiled prawns, mushrooms and suitable sauces which tasted just as good hot, tepid or cold. It remains famous, and people still make special trips to buy it.

But the home of fine rail catering remained France, from the dining cars with their fresh napery and fine wines to the station buffets with their welcoming aromas of coffee and fresh croissants and their posher brethren, station restaurants like the Train Bleu at the Gare de Lyon in Paris. Yet today most of these have been closed, or are merely relics of their former self. The French have sacrificed this noble tradition in their quest for speed. In creating the world's finest high-speed rail network they have abandoned the notion of eating at all adequately, a disaster emphasised because they have proved totally unable to provide edible examples of "le fast food", so that virtually all French sandwiches, especially those served on TGVs, are vile.

Indeed, throughout Europe, the standard of train food is not what it was. The Brussels to Milan service – beloved of European functionaries, as it stops in both Luxembourg and Strasbourg – once boasted a fine Pullman dining car, with starched linen, fine wines and a steak grilled to perfection. That came to a stop three years ago; now, there are little plastic trays of inedible pasta, microwaved to death. Besides this, the InterCity sizzler is the food of the Gods.



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**Patrick Cockburn** visits Karak, gripped by curfew after bread riots

# Angry Jordanians ready for more trouble

"They will start again soon, God willing," said Nasser, a heavily built young man, as he lounged against the front wall of the burnt-out shell of the Jordao Bank in the centre of Karak. A bank clerk himself, he said he approved of what the demonstrators had done over the weekend, adding: "We don't want the government here."

Less than 100 yards away heavily armed Jordanian soldiers were sitting oo an armoured personnel carrier guarding a crossroads. Their presence did not seem to make Nasser and his friends nervous. "Nobody is frightened here," he said. "At least the soldiers are better than the police."

Hussein: Troubled kingdom

In Amman, 50 miles north of Karak, King Hussein and his Prime Minister, Abdul-Karim Kabariti, were confidently claiming that order had been restored and the riots which started last Friday, had beeo fomeoted by the Iraqis. "They say that because they have to say something," Mohammed, a constructioo worker who joined the group outside the Jordan Bank, said.

There is a reason why people in Karak, an ancient hilltop town with a populatioo of 25,000, remain confident in the face of the overwhelming presence of the Jordanian army. Beside many of the armoured personnel carriers, the soldiers were sipping tea with local young men. "They are all the same family," a Palestinian driver from Amman said. "Where do you think the army and police are recruited from?"

The government is treading softly because Karak and the hill towns of southern Jordan are the bedrock of its support. But the riots which began after prayers last Friday were extremely fierce. "Seveo banks were burned out here," the manager of the Arab Bank said as he poked through its blackened interior. "It will cost about $50,000 to put this right."

Down the road, two yellow earth-moving machines were scooping out the ashes which are all that remaio of the interiors of four shops unfortunate enough to be on the ground floor of the local ministry of education building which came under attack as a symbol of governmeot authority.

It is not easy to get into Karak. Since Saturday the army and police have sealed the town off and imposed a curfew. After an abortive attempt to use the one road from the Dead Sea, I entered the city from the east, where I was curtly told by an army officer at a checkpoint to report to the police headquarters. Having first said I would have to wait "because a big boss is here", the deputy chief of police finally relented and signed a letter allowing me to go on.

Ever since the riots started, the government has been ambivalent over the best way to treat the demonstrators. People in Karak say that the overreaction of the riot police, now withdrawn, swelled the initial protest. In some parts of the city, water and electricity have been cut off. Telephones only work within Karak and it is impossible to call Amman.

"About 350 people have been arrested and we heard from somebody who was released that they are being knocked about by the police," a local observer, who did not want his name mentioned, said. He said that élite special forces, hitherto held in reserve within the medieval walls of the great crusader fortress of Karak, were beginning to advance into the town.

Down one alleyway Ahmed al-Garada, the elderly owner of the Shallalan Restaurant, was happy to talk about the cause of the riot. He said: "The problem is everything, not just bread, is very expensive. The poor cannot buy anything. Only the rich can afford to live." He was mystified by the claim of Iraqi involvement, as was everybody else in Karak, saying: "That is between the leaders, betweeo King Hussein and Saddam [President Saddam Hussein]. It is nothing to do with us." He added that he has had no water for three days.

As he spoke two soldiers entered the restaurant, but Mr Garada was unworried by their presence, which turned out to be in pursuit of a free meal. Two Egyptians standing nearby were much more anxious. "Do not mention our names," they said. "They could take us away just like that," one said, crossing his wrists in a gesture to indicate how quick he could be handcuffed.

In the background, Jordan Radio was giving the midday news, the lead item being a massacre in Algeria, followed by the Lebaoese elections and events in Chechnya. Of Karak and the riots which have produced the biggest domestic crisis in Jordan this decade, there was no mention.

Market forces: Tomatoes and vegetables piled up in Karak, where prices are hitting the poor Photograph: Reuter

## SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

**Muslim guerrillas disguised as policemen massacred** 63 people, including children and women, in Algeria, the London-based Arabic oewspaper *al-Hayat* reported yesterday. Witnesses said aroumd 100 gummen oo Saturday set up a roadblock and stopped two buses oo the road linking the provinces of M'Sila and Batna, south-east of Algiers. The guerrillas, armed with shotguns, knives and axes and wearing "dirty uniforms", killed all those holding Batna identity papers, said witnesses. *Al-Hayat* quoted its sources as saying the aim of the massacre was to "create tribal strife". The Algerian oewspaper *el-Watan* said the guerrillas had killed 18 meo by cutting their throats in two separate attacks. *Reuter – Cairo*

**Gunmen in Haiti opened fire on the National Palace** and police headquarters in Port-au-Prince, killing a civilian worker, yesterday in the latest apparent effort to destabilise the new government. The attacks follow death threats against President Rene Preval and former President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Mr Preval, who was installed in February, has blamed the attacks on soldiers in the former army that ousted Mr Aristide in 1991 and was disbanded after a US-led military intervention in October 1994. *AP – Port-Au-Prince*

**German firms' continued involvement in Libya's plans** to build a chemical weapons factory was exposed by the arrest of two German businessmen accused of selling restricted technology to Tripoli. The criminal authorities in Mönchengladbach confirmed yesterday that two German firms were being investigated for shipping Dm3.2m (£1.4m) worth of computer systems to a Libyan cootact in Belgium. An international arrest warrant has been issued for a third person, believed to be the go-between. *Imre Karacs – Mönchengladbach*

**Former South African president FW de Klerk** yesterday accepted the blame for apartheid crimes, and ooe of his generals acknowledged there had been "gross violation of human rights". General Constand Viljoen, former chief of the defence force and now leader of the right-wing Freedom Front party, told Archbishop Desmood Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commissioo: "We certainly made a grave mistake when we allowed our political leaders to ignore the need for a timely settlemeot ... so we take collective responsibility for the situation that developed." *Reuter – Cape Town*

**Spaniards live up to their sociable reputation** by spending more than anyone else on going out to eat and drink, and devoting the lion's share of their family budget to having fun, according to a survey by the Caja Catalonia bank. It found that Spaniards spend 25.8 per cent of their income in bars, restaurants and hotels, compared with an average of 15.3 per cent in other developed countries. While the top seven OECD countries spend most of the family income – 20.4 per cent – oo rent and household expenses, for Spaniards the figure is 13.1 per cent. *Elizabeth Nash – Madrid*

**The government of the canton of Zurich** yesterday gave the go-ahead for a referendum that could result in the legalisation of cannabis. The Free Democratic Party says using cannabis should not be a punishable offence because 20 years of criminal prosecution has had no effect. It suggests the state should take over the trade and supervise quality. *Reuter – Zurich*

**Finnish police are planning to use a harpoon-like** device to halt drivers who refuse to stop, according to a television report. The technique involves mounting a "harpoon gun" on the front bumper of traffic patrol cars, which can fire a projectile with hydraulically operated barbs into the boot of a fleeing vehicle. The harpoon is attached to a steel rope and officers in the pursuing car then apply their brakes to halt the runaway vehicle. *Reuter – Helsinki*

# obituaries / gazette

## Rabbi Hugo Gryn

Rabbi Hugo Gryn was probably the most beloved rabbi in Great Britain.

In part, this was due to the self-sacrificing service he rendered for over 30 years to one of the largest congregations in Europe, the West London Synagogue. His students there numbered in the thousands, his admirers in the tens of thousands.

Beyond that, this gentle and great soul who went through the torment of Auschwitz came lo serve a far greater community than the Jews of Great Britain and Europe. He was the leading voice in the field of Interfaith where Jews and Christians (and now Muslims) come together in an effort to understand other religions through meetings, lectures and personal encounters.

Hugo Gryn moved freely and openly through that world, preserving his integrity and honouring his neighbours. He was also closely associated with television and the media, as an active participant of BBC Radio 4's *The Moral Maze* and other programmes.

Many saw him as the central figure in *The Moral Maze*, where contemporary ethical problems are discussed with great openness and honesty. Generally, it was Gryn who summed up the conclusions of the group, adding the special insights of his faith in that warm, mellifluous voice. The occasional slight stutter only added intensity and conviction as this gentle spiritual figure of small stature dominated the scene, even in his final broadcast when he was clearly ill.

He was also an adviser in the field of religious broadcasting and in the area of religious education where he has left an enduring mark. He furthermore played a significant part in all aspects of Leo Baeck College, the progressive Jewish seminary which trains Liberal and Reform rabbis for Great Britain and Europe. The RSGB (the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain), the Reform Movement, recently made him its Honorary President.

Within that progressive centre movement of the Jewish community, his vision of respect for the past and the ability to create new patterns could realise itself fully. In the world after the Holocaust, Hugo Gryn taught a relevant faith and worship in a Jewish world which had to confront the anguish of the past with faith and hope.

Thus, he sponsored and initiated significant religious texts, but still remained a rabbi, teacher and lecturer working what seemed to be a 25-hour day. Recently, despite his illness, he insisted on officiating at the funeral of his young colleague Robert Shafritz. In the last days of his illness, he left his bed to give lectures in Wales; that total dedication may have hastened the end, but for Gryn there was no other choice.

Hugo Gryn was born in Czechoslovakia on 25 June 1930, in a home of great Jewish learning and warmth. The story of his travels with his father through the "Holocaust Kingdom", has often been told. Watching his father fashioning Chanukah candles in Auschwitz with the precious fat which might have kept the spark of life going, he was instructed in spiritual resistance by the father who did not survive the ordeal.

The experience was one of many reasons which led him to the rabbinate, encouraged by Leo Baeck, who had been the head of the German Jewish community in its most difficult time and had survived the concentration camp / ghetto Theresienstadt. The Hon Lily Montagu, one of the founders of the spirituality and radical thinking of much of Liberal Judaism, also encouraged the boy she met when he was a refugee child in London.

Gryn came to the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati in the late 1940s (after studying at Cambridge and London Universities), where I first met him and was instructed by his friendship. After ordination, he turned to the work of healing the wounds of the Holocaust, serving the JDC (the Joint Distribution Committee, in charge of refugee work), as a Senior Executive both in the United States and Europe.

Gryn in 1994: 'To achieve peace you should anticipate it, run after it, and never cease to do all in your power to bring it about'

Gryn also felt an obligation to the WUPJ (World Union for Progressive Judaism) which he later served as chairman of its executive and as a president. On their behalf, in 1957 he went to Bombay as the rabbi of its Jewish Religious Union, and stayed for the next three years.

In all areas of this work he did well; but it was London which ultimately because the place of his greatest achievements. There he had earlier met and married Jacqueline Selby who shared in so much of his work and the joy of raising their children: Gabrielle, Naomi, Rachelle and David.

Hugo Gryn was one of the great architects of Reform Judaism in Great Britain. It is significant that a movement initially shaped and carried by the grandees of the Jewish community eventually became influenced by the refugee rabbis from Europe who gave a new and deeper dimension to that earlier, colder structure. In that congregation, Gryn advised the "merchant princes" of British Jewry – but his door was open to everyone, and those who were needy found their way to his door.

During the period of his greatest activity, the Reform movement grew and developed a new liturgy, an expanded youth programme, and a greater awareness of its need to create a new rabbinate which would work in partnerships with the Liberal movement (the ULPS).

At West London, Gryn had been influenced by his predecessors, Rabbi Harold Reinhart and Rabbi van der Zyl, both linked to him through mutual respect and affection. In the end, he went his own way, moving towards his individual achievements. He became a world leader, particularly through his work with the Memorial Claims Conference, trying to rescue aspects of the greatness that had once been the Jewish community in Europe.

The various survivor organisations which developed in Great Britain knew him as a concerned and helpful member; and he was one of the prominent advisors to the Imperial War Museum and its plans for a Holocaust exhibition. When Ronald Senator's *Terezin Requiem* with my libretto was performed at Canterbury, Gryn was the narrator and blew the *shofar*, a glorious twisted ram's horn he had found in India.

Rabbi Hugo Gryn could never be parochial; his concerns reached out to all aspects of British life. He was one of the founders and leaders of the Interfaith Network, the chairman of the Standing Conference of Interfaith Dialogues in Education, and a friend and dialogue partner with Cardinal Hume, various Archbishops of Canterbury, and the current and past Chief Rabbis of the British Commonwealth. His leadership on the British scene in many areas became so evident that the government's award of the CBE seemed almost a foregone conclusion.

Hugo Gryn was also a "rabbi's rabbi", not only the chairman of the Rabbinic Assembly, but also the personal friend to whom his colleagues could come to benefit from his advice and often his direct help. The shared work of Liberal and of Reform Judaism and also Orthodoxy meant as much to him as the interfaith dialogue.

He was a man of peace, who recognised the need for compromise but strove for equable solutions. In Michael Hare Duke's *Praying for Peace: reflections on the Gulf crisis* (1994), he wrote: "All commandments have appointed times in Judaism except one: 'Seek peace and pursue it'. To achieve peace you should anticipate it, run after it, and never cease to do all in your power to bring it about."

That rule was central in Rabbi Hugo Gryn's life to his last day. His family, his countless friends, and the world have lost something infinitely precious in his death

**Albert H. Friedlander**

Hugo Gryn was a survivor. **writes Martin Gilbert.** He survived Auschwitz, where his younger brother was murdered. and he survived the final horrendous death marches of the Second World War, at the end of which his father perished at his side. When the war came to an end he was himself very near to death. But he went on to devote half a century to life: to the celebration of life in all its forms.

Coming to Britain at the end of 1945 with a group of young fellow-survivors, he was from the first days in Britain a leader and a guide. He was always active in seeking the reconciliation of those who were tormented by religious, social or racial divisions (as a young rabbi in the American south, he was an early activist in the American Civil Rights movement, and a friend of Martin Luther King). He was always at the side, and on the side, of those hundreds – and indeed thousands – of people who sought his advice on personal problems.

He was non-judgmental, encouraging each individual to find his or her path. He always made the time (despite his many pastoral duties as a rabbi) to talk through the knottiest problem, whether of faith or morality; indeed, he had a depth of understanding that also made him alert and receptive to needs and demands that might seem trivial to others, but which he understood to be essential to his interlocutor.

To those who turned to him, he became a focus for hope. He combined wisdom born of wide experience (including rabbinical and social work in India) with humour. Above all, he drew from his personal experience and religious knowledge a humane approach to life that set him above the shibboleths of any one creed or philosophy. Those who were wont to hear him on the radio, to watch him on television, to listen to his sermons, to join the animated Friday night gatherings in his family circle, or to share his jokes, will treasure the memory.

*Hugo Gabriel Gryn, rabbi: born Berehovo, Czechoslovakia 25 June 1930; ordained rabbi 1957; Rabbi, Jewish Religious Union, Bombay 1957-60; Executive Director, World Union for Progressive Judaism 1960-62; Senior Executive, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee 1962-64; Senior Rabbi, West London Synagogue 1964-96; Vice-President and Lecturer, Leo Baeck College 1964-96; married 1957 Jacqueline Selby (one son, three daughters); CBE 1992; died London 18 August 1996.*

## Neil Campbell

For an incredible three-quarters of a century, 1922 to 1996 – as undergraduate, graduate student, lecturer, reader, professor, and one of the stalwarts of the meetings and dinners of the Royal Society of Edinburgh to which he was elected in 1950 – Neil Campbell was immersed in the Chemistry Department of Edinburgh University.

He was away only for the academic years 1930-31 when he was despatched by Sir James Walker, his PhD supervisor, to study at the University of Tübingen under Professor Johannes Meisenheimer, one of the leading organic chemists of the day, and 1933-34 at Duke University in the United States.

His time at Tübingen, professionally fruitful, made a powerful impression. In 1976, I dropped a casual comment that the then Labour government's inflation difficulties were, I opined, manageable. Campbell's reaction was uncharacteristically sharp: "You weren't in Germany in 1930. I was. You did not see the barrow-loads of paper money being wheeled around. I did. Be careful!" Campbell was appalled, but hardly surprised by the events as they unfolded in Germany with the rise of Hitler, and was among a group of Edinburgh scientists who were instrumental, pre-war and post-war, in welcoming German and Jewish colleagues to Edinburgh including the Nobel prizewinner Max Born and students of a younger generation such as Charlotte Auerbach.

Neil Campbell came from a family in the solid society of Edinburgh actuaries. At the Merchant Company School of George Watson's College, he received a rigorous Scots education for which he expressed his gratitude by maintaining the closest links academic and sporting with the school. He was elected President of the Watsonian Club in 1962.

At Edinburgh University he won not only first class honours in Chemistry, but an athletics Blue. As a quarter-miler – the 400m was unheard of in those days – he often ran against the legendary Eric Liddell, later to win a gold medal at the 1924 Paris Olympics, and when questioned would ruefully confess "to having often admired Liddell's style – from behind".

His academic and sporting success notwithstanding, Campbell was neither priggish nor a paragon of youthful rectitude. There is a long-remembered tale, somewhat embellished over the years, but essentially true, of how, in 1924, Campbell achieved passing fame when during an unexpected delay in the opening ceremony for the King's Buildings (to this day the huge University Science Faculty complex), he successfully impersonated the young Prince of Wales, to the delight of his contemporaries but to the chagrin of the Vice-Chancellor.

Campbell's research in the field of polycyclic aromatic and heteroaromatic molecules, electrophilic aromatic substitution, and liquid crystals, gained him a lectureship. He wrote a much-used textbook, *Qualitative Organic Chemistry* (1939) and edited Schmidt's *Textbook of Organic Chemistry* (eighth edition, 1947). On account of his mastery of German, he also translated many learned articles from the German universities. He contributed to Rodd's *Chemistry of Carbon Compounds* (1951). However, he was valuable more as a superb and caring teacher than as an original chemist.

Professor Robert Donovan, the present head of the department, recalls: "Those who came with a weak background in chemistry were given his special assistance and he was always available for discussion and advice. His lectures were spiced with humour and he was able to arouse enthusiasm, confidence and respect."

It was his all-round contribution that mattered. In these days of student drop-outs and pressure on university staff to produce articles and books at the expense of teaching, one can look back longingly at people like Campbell for the pastoral care he and his athlete wife of 55 years, Marjorie Stewart, a Scottish hockey international who predeceased him by a few days, gave to so many students.

Campbell: an all-round contribution for 75 years

Campbell had another life. Not only had he been an athlete, but he was one of the best rugby referees of his generation. Ken Scotland, the international full back for Scotland and the British Lions of yesteryear, remembered Campbell as an international schoolboy referee. I myself first came into contact with Campbell when we were both members of the organising committee of the 1970 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh. Had it not been for Campbell and the late Sir John Inch taking the committee by the scruff of its collective neck, we would have found ourselves in a fiasco mess of Atlanta proportions. Later, he was to be the Vice-Commandant of the Games Village. This experience was hardly new since Campbell had been an official timekeeper for the 1958 Empire Games.

Nearing retirement, Campbell devoted a great deal of his time to being a member of the University Court of the Heriot-Watt (1968-76) during the period the second university in Edinburgh was being established; his memorials, perhaps, are its sports field and superb sports centre in the new Riccarton campus. He was appointed OBE in 1961 for his service to the Scottish Association of Boys Clubs.

Many of his friends will remember him in recent years for his ever pertinent contributions to the discussions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

**Tam Dalyell**

*Neil Campbell, chemist and athletics administrator: born Edinburgh 29 August 1903; staff, Chemistry Department, Edinburgh University 1931-73, Professor 1967-73; OBE 1961; married 1940 Marjorie Stewart (died 1996; two sons); died Kinghorn, Fife 24 July 1996.*

## Geoffrey Dearmer

Geoffrey Dearmer's must surely be a unique case of poetic neglect requiring correction. His verse, highly praised during and just after the Great War, was soon forgotten, and remained so for some 70 years – due mainly to his own almost painful modesty and self-effacement. Indeed, it was due to the efforts of others, somewhat to his embarrassment, that an unexpected wave of publicity greeted the appearance of a selection of his poetry, *A Pilgrim's Song*, published by John Murray on his 100th birthday in 1993.

Geoffrey Dearmer was born at Lambeth, in London, three days after the birth of Wilfred Owen, with whom he shared a background of religiosity. His father, Percy Dearmer, was a celebrated cleric, and was author or editor of numerous works on ecclesiastical themes. He was noted especially for his compilation of *The English Hymnal*. Geoffrey's mother, Mabel, was a well-known author of children's books, novels and plays in her day, being highly regarded by Bernard Shaw, among others, for her stage productions. She died of enteric fever while nursing wounded Serbs, in 1915, under appalling conditions. In that same year, Geoffrey's younger brother was killed at Gallipoli only days before Geoffrey landed there himself, as a subaltern in the Royal Fusiliers.

After Gallipoli, Dearmer served in France in the Royal Army Service Corps, with a very sticky job in the mud of Flanders. His war poetry, *Poems*, first appeared in 1918 to acclamation on both sides of the Atlantic, and a peacetime collection, *A Day's Delight*, in 1923. It was typical of the man that he hardly bothered to keep copies of what he wrote (including post-war novels and pageant scripts), or of press notices.

Dearmer saw at least as much action as Owen or Sassoon, yet his verse contains none of the inspired bitterness (amounting to sheer genius) that invested their poetry and made it the envy of other bitable contemporaries. They were long in a muddy world of wait and men could not be blamed for looking down and seeing realism in mud. Dearmer tended to look up and see the stars, as real as the bloodied mud of the battlefields swirling around his boots. His religious faith remained unwavering and he never allowed the horrors of war or the disillusionments of so-called peace to lead him into the iconoclastic (sometimes nihilistic) cynicism that beset so many minds during and after the First World War.

Between the wars Dearmer was variously engaged as Examiner of Plays for the Lord Chamberlain, in the days of theatre censorship, and as a religious programes scout for the BBC. He regarded the censoring job with intense amusement, being the least censorious of men. Concurrent with his censorship post, he became editor of BBC *Children's Hour* – watched by as many adults or children – from 1939 until the late Fifties.

Dearmer was married in 1936, and had been a widower for decades when he died. His sole child, Juliet Woollcombe, is an Anglican priest. Among other things, he was (in both age and membership entry) the oldest member of the Fusiliers Association, the Gallipoli Association, the Society of Authors and the Poetry Society; and was a Lieutenant of the Victorian Order.

When I was engaged on research in compiling the Dearmer collection, I found that almost all the literary folk had forgotten the man's name, or thought him long dead. However, the wide publicity and reviewers' plaudits that accompanied the book's publication on Dearmer's 100th birthday assured him of a belated place in the poets' pantheon, and it will be interesting to see what future generations make of his verse, particularly in relation to that of the long-recognised Great War poets.

Dearmer: saw the stars as well as the battlefields' bloodied mud

Even in the years of obscurity, Dearmer's intensely moving poem "The Turkish Trench Dog" continued to appear in anthologies. It is worth an epitaphal glance:

Night held me as I crawled and scrambled near
The Turkish lines. Above, the mocking stars
Silvered the curving parapet, and clear
Cloud-latticed beams o'erflecked the land with bars.
I, crouching, lay between
Tense-listening armies peering through the night,
Twin giants bound by tentacles unseen.
Here in dim-shadowed light
I saw him, as a sudden movement turned
His eyes towards me, glowing eyes that burned
A moment ere his snuffling muzzle found
My trail: and then, as serpents mesmerise,
He chained me with those unrelenting eyes,
That muscle-sliding rhythm, knit and bound
In spare-limbed symmetry, those pefect jaws
And soft-approaching pitter-patter claws.
Nearer and nearer like a wolf he crept –
That moment had my swift revolver leapt –
But terror seized me, terror born of shame
Brought flooding revelation. For he came
As one who offers comradeship deserved,
an open ally of the human race,
And, sniffing at my prostrate form unnerved,
He licked my face!

In conversation, when well past the century mark, Dearmer's reminiscences would bring stories of meetings with the likes of Bernard Shaw, Kipling, Robert Graves, Masefield, and a whole host of other luminaries drawn from widely differing milieux.

As an activist in the affairs of the Stage Society, Dearmer was the lone champion for the production of R.C. Sherriff's *Journey's End*, based on the experiences of a captain in the trenches in the First World War: and he had considerable influence on Robert Graves, advising him not to "over-diversify".

Geoffrey Dearmer's unfailing kindness, humour, hospitality and utter lack of cynicism formed an agreeable persona that impressed even the most hard-bitten interviewers. Sharp as a needle till the end, he would correct any literary misquotation in conversation, with diffident good nature, and was invariably proved right. An American radio interviewer once asked *him* "the secret" of reaching the century so mentally agile and in such comparatively good shape physically. He replied: "Bad temper shortens life. Even temper never does."

**Laurence Cotterell**

*Geoffrey Dearmer, poet: born London 21 March 1893; married 1936 Margaret Proctor (died 1980; one daughter); died Birchington, Kent 18 August 1996.*

## Births, Marriages & Deaths

### BIRTHS

**THURLOW:** On 15 August 1996, to Jacqui (née Hocken) and Simon, a daughter, Madeline Lucy.

### DEATHS

**EVANS:** The Very Rev Thomas Eric KCVO, Dean of St Paul's, on 17 August, aged 68, beloved husband of Linda and father of Alex and George. Everyone will be welcome at the funeral, a celebration of Requiem Eucharist in Gloucester Cathedral at 11.30am on Wednesday 28 August. Donations in lieu of flowers to St Matthew's Children's Fund (Ethiopia), 5 Cherington Close, Hurst pierpoint, BN6 9AY. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at St Paul's Cathedral at 5pm on Monday 30 September. "And death shall have no dominion".

**GRYN:** Rabbi Hugo Gryn CBE, died peacefully after a short illness on 18 August 1996. Funeral Service at West London Synagogue, 34 Upper Berkeley Street, London W1, on Wednesday 21 August 1996, at 12 noon. Prayers at the Synagogue on Wednesday 21 August at 6.30pm and Thursday 22 August at 6.30pm. Memorial Service to be announced.

**PINSON:** Michael, aged 22, of Helsby, Cheshire, on 11 August, in Spain. He graduated in Computer Science at York University in July 1996, despite a lifelong hearing impairment. On the cliff face of Los Mallos de Riglos, he lost his brilliant future and eventually his life. His parents, Alan and Ida, his sister Jennifer, and his grandparents, Nan, Zdena and Ladislav, thank the staff of the Miguet Servet Hospital, Zaragoza, who could not have done more to save him. A memorial service will be held in England in the Autumn. A beloved life cruelly reaped.

**Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, Forthcoming marriages, Marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.**

**The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.**

### Birthdays

Mr Gerald Bermingham MP, 56; Sir Martin Berthoud, diplomat, 65; Mr Reginald Bevins, former government minister, 88; Professor Sir John Boardman, archaeologist, 69; Mr John Clay, former vice-chairman, Hambros, 69; Professor Peter Day, Director of the Royal Institution, 58; Mr John Emburey, cricketer, 44; Mr Roger Gale MP, 53; Mrs Jane Garside, chief commissioner, the Guide Association of the United Kingdom, 60; Dr Lionel Kochan, former Beatred Reader in Jewish History, Warwick University, 74; Mr Gus Macdonald, television journalist and executive, 56; Mr Tom Mangold, television reporter, 62; Dr Helen Muir, biochemist, 76; Mr Robin Oakley, political editor, BBC, 55; Mr Robert Plant, rock singer, 48; Professor Sir John Plumb, historian, 85; Mr Brian Rees, former Headmaster, Rugby School, 67; Baroness Robson of Kiddington, former chairman, South-West Thames Regional Health Authority, 77; Professor Anthony Seaton, chairman, Department of Health Air Pollution Commission, 58; Mr Robert Wareing MP, 66; Mr William Woolard, television presenter and producer, 57.

### Anniversaries

**Births:** George Villiers, first Duke of Buckingham, courtier, 1592; Thomas Corneille, playwright, 1625; Bernardo O'Higgins, Chilean patriot, 1778; Benjamin Harrison, 23rd US President, 1833; Raymond-Nicolas Landry Poincaré, statesman, 1860; Shaul Tchernichowski, Hebrew poet, 1875; Howard Phillips Lovecraft, novelist, 1890; Christian Bérard, painter and sculptor, 1902; Jim Reeves, country singer, 1924. **Deaths:** Martin Opitz von Boberfeld, poet, 1639; Lord Herbert of Cherbury, philosopher and poet, 1648; Johan de Witt, statesman, with his brother Cornelis, murdered by the mob 1672; Sir Charles Sedley, playwright, 1701; Friedrich Wilhelm Joseph von Schelling, philosopher, 1854; William Miller, "nursery" poet, 1872; Mrs Charles Kean (Ellen Tree), actress, 1880; Jules Laforgue, poet, 1887; William Adolphe Bouguereau, painter, 1905; William Booth, founder of the Salvation Army, 1912; Paul Ehrlich, biochemist, 1915; Vilfredo Pareto, economist and sociologist, 1923; Leon Trotsky (Lev Davidovich Bronstein), politician, murdered 1940; Bernard William Griffin, Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, 1956; Jessie Matthews, singer, dancer and actress, 1981; George Adamson, conservationist in Africa, killed 1989. **On this day:** the Austrians defeated the French at the Battle of Saragossa, 1710; the exploration party under Burke and Wills started from Melbourne, Australia, 1860; the German army occupied Brussels, 1914; in the United States, the *Detroit News* began operating radio station WWJ, 1920; the Imperial Economic Conference at Ottawa ended, 1932; Calder Hall nuclear-power station began operating, 1956; the French colony of Senegal became independent, 1960; the first London performance of the musical show *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes* was presented, 1962; Russian troops invaded Czechoslovakia, and fighting broke out in Prague, 1968; following the coup in the Soviet Union, supporters of Boris Yeltsin fortified barricades and thousands demonstrated outside the Russian parliament building, 1991. **Today** is the Feast Day of St Amator or Amadour, St Bernard of Clairvaux, St Oswin, St Rognwald or Ronald and St Philibert.

### Lectures

**National Gallery:** Alexander Sturgis, "Fair Game (iii): Fur and Feathers in Dutch Art", 1pm.
**Tate Gallery:** Frances Homan, "Identity and Disguise", 1pm.
**National Portrait Gallery** (guided tour): "The Creative Spirit: portraits of writers, artists and scientists 1500-1837", 2.30pm.

### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Princess Alexandra visits the Silver Trust Exhibition of the National Collection of Silver at Hamilton and Inches, Edinburgh.

### Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 3rd Battalion Royal Gurkha Rifles mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Irish Guards.

# the leader page

# An ID card identifies only a love of power

The Government's scheme for a voluntary identity card is half-baked. Whitehall appears tn be in disarray. The Northern Ireland Office is the latest department to register its doubts. It is worried by the presence on the card of the Union flag, which could easily look like a die-hards' political statement. Why all the political bother fnr the sake nf a voluntary card? But if not the Union flag, then what? In the Tory party's present state, all European signs and symbols are going to be divisive. And what goes on the card in, say, Scotland? Will the Scottish Office not insist nn some Scottish identifier? Befnre you can have an identity card, you have to have an identity. Little wonder further delays are expected for an announcement already overdue.

The Government's confusion is significant. In terms of practical governance it says something about the inability of departments to speak to one another, nr even set up the rudimentary machinery that allows a cross-departmental decision to be taken; this is an old Whitehall problem which the Tnries lately have made worse. Identity cards cut straight across the turf. The Transport Department has its nwn logistical nightmare in trying to transform our pink and anonymnus driving licences (and how many people still have the old green ones?) into Euro-approved photo-bearing licences within less than five years. Do we need both those and ID cards? The Department of Social Security has its plans for a claimants' card which, given its current atavistie mood, will probably include blood and DNA samples as well as photos and thumb prints. Meanwhile, there are complicated plans afoot involving the Treasury, Inland Revenue and the DSS to change the administration of National Insurance – a reminder that we already have national identification in the UK: we just call it NI and health service numbers. As for the Foreign Office, one nf the ostensible purposes of the exercise is tn provide a Euro-identifier acceptable to the police of nther member states ... but what is wrong with a passport?

A national ID card is unnecessary and the Government deserves all the embarrassment it faces for not having thought more about it – preferring instead to dance to Michael Howard's ambitinus piping. The problem is not just Ulster and its evidence that identity (and identificatinn) cannnt be imposed. A few years ago another ambitious Tory Home Secretary, Kenneth Baker, got a well-deserved pasting for his attempt tn impose identity cards on football supporters. Memories of that may have persuaded the Government away from making cards compulsory. To work, identity cards need to express consent (a lesson you might have thnught had been learnt by a government that was forced tn leave millions unpoll-taxed). When consent goes, the government and its police officers and soldiers and computers and tax officers approach powerlessness – and no true Conservative, or indeed anyone with sense, would wish that.

The argument against even a voluntary card is that we already possess several voluntary identifiers, from licence plates tn debit card numbers, and nn reputable case has been made for adding a "Howardcard" to their number. But, says Mr Howard in reply, there is a good reason for a card and it is crime. "Crackdown on crime may boost Howard's stature," a sycophantic newspaper said the other day, conveniently eliding the appearance of doing something with actual changes in criminal behavinur nr the effectiveness nf the police. But how are voluntary cards going to be used tn reduce crime? Isn't producing them gning tn be regarded as a ground for suspicion – in which case they cease tn be voluntary? In how many instances of policing is the precise, photograph-assured identity of a person an issue in the detection or solutinn of crime? That, nf course, is an empirical questinn, requiring evidence nf a kind Mr Howard seems so reluctant tn commissinn nr consider.

There are, it's true, a number of specific problems in the state's relations with its citizens for which, superficially, ID cards provide an answer. Most have to do with public-sectnr fraud. Here the proponents of cards suffer from an acute attack nf disproportion. Those who get so excited by social security fraud forget the scale of tax evasion, notably in the corporate sector. It is as if ripping off the state by claiming benefits falsely were so much wnrse than ripping off the state by under-declaring earnings or those complex schemes of avoidance which respectable firms of accountants are paid in gold to devise.

Should we all have identity cards because some company finance directors break the law? Of course not. So why then the hammer of a national scheme to crack the nut nf housing benefit claims? Reducing such fraud involves painstaking, long-haul tracking by dedicated council officers, not gimmicks.

The state has a right and a duty to identify and number its citizens. It does this in many ways, through censuses, tax schemes and lists of many kinds. It would have the right, too, to concentrate some uf the data it holds in a new, machine-readable card. But why? Every proposal tn expand the ambit uf the state demands the closest inspection. That principle nf limited government used tn be une that united members of the Cnnservative Party. They could be relied upon to twitch their noses at any scent of government taking liberties. What has happened to a party that could nnce be relied upon – right or wrong – to sound a warning? Is the enrruptiun of that Thatcherite love nf state power still so strong in Mr Major's government that it can, still, proceed with a proposal with so little serinus internal discussion? One look at Michael Howard and the only answer is yes.

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## Bad service at a bargain price

We like to think of ourselves as a country of retail sophisticates – Tesco and Asda for groceries, John Lewis and House of Fraser fnr household goods and so forth. But according to new data we are turning into a country of rough shoppers which buys its food and detergents at Aldi and kettles and tuys at Argos, whose catalogue sales techniques are borrowed from the US. You would not call either store sophisticated. At Aldi, personal service is minimal; at Argos you do it all yourself, short of lugging the goods out of the warehouse. Yet Aldi grew hig last year and Argos's profits are up by nearly 50 per cent. A nation of shnpkeepers is turning into a nation of bargain-hunters.

# • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

## Handout to airlines from airport shops

Sir: Terence Conran ("What is an airport for?", 17 August) is quite right to point out that BAA's retailing activities are an unregulated mnnopoly and that BAA is seeking every way possible to boost this side of its business. The shopping element in its Terminal 5 application is the size of 12 superstores.

It is sometimes argued that BAA's retailing profits are acceptable because they finance the airports' infrastructure. But this is nnt what happens. Retailing profits subsidise airlines.

The way BAA is regulated is that its retailing profits are lumped together with its profits from airport charges – the "single till" approach. The Airports Act 1986 nnly gives BAA's regulators (the Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the Civil Aviation Authnrity) the power to regulate airport charges – retailing profits are exempt unless these activities are against the public interest. However, the MMC does not share Terence Conran's definition of the public interest. Therefore, the more BAA earns from retailing the more its regulators cap or reduce airport charges.

Airport charges at Heathrow are, as a result of this perverse regulatory regime, amongst the lowest in the world, leading tn an insatiable demand for landing slnts, endless expansinn of the airport and the cause of such environmental damage to London.

The undercharging (and hence the subsidy) tn profitable UK airlines and unprofitable foreign airlines is estimated to amount to between £250m and £500m a year – an amount which should accrue to the public purse. The Government cannot allow this subsidy to continue and must urgently review the regulatory regime and at the same time impose an environmental limit on the number of flights into Heathrow.
GIDEON NELLEN
*London W1*

Sir: Terence Conran is wrong when he bemoans the booming airport shopping business at Heathrow and Gatwick airports. As a frequent traveller through Heathrow, I can assure him that the new Terminal 1 is a vast improvement on the nld, even thnugh some nf the departure lnunges nced refurbishment (has he not seen the new pier recently opened?).

If increased retail space is the price fnr making the whole terminal more spacious and user-friendly, then that's fine by me. If Sir Terence has ever had to endure a long delay at a major US airport, or even, say, in Athens, then I think he will appreciate better just what a world-class facility Heathrow airport is.
RICHARD HOLDRUP
*E-mail: RHoldrup@aol.com*

## Mandelson under friendly fire

Sir: Last week Peter Mandelson was accused by Clare Short of being "a man in the dark". This week, Roy Hattersley complains that Mr Mandelson is "in the papers too often, on the television ton nften" ("Hattersley rails at Mandelson's profile" 19 August).

As I understand the matter, Peter Mandelson is a Member nf Parliament and Labour frontbencher, charged by Tony Blair with responsibility for planning the general election campaign. Surely it is Mr Mandelson's job tn put Labour's case in the media.

It seems a great shame that Roy Hattersley, at the end of a political career distinguished by sound judgement and loyalty, cannot let Labour's current leaders get on with the job nf beating the Tories, free from "friendly fire".
PAUL RICHARDS
*Labour's prospective parliamentary candidate for Billericay*
*London W6*


*'Yer, we're looking for drug pushers. What A-levels have you got?'*

## The blame for ancient hatreds

Sir: Innocence and guilt are characteristics of the actions of individuals, and Jnhn Norman is wrong to apply them to whole societies (letters, 17 August). Medieval Muslims and Christians who acted in accordance with the norms of their respective religinns were innocent, but we should recognise that the Christian nnrm nf religious intnlerance was further from mndern ideas than was Islamic acceptance of nther religions' right to exist.

On the other hand, modern Western leaders are guilty of acting contrary to their norms in turning or attempting to turn most Muslim countries into vassal states nf the West and in preferring compliant despots to more representative Islamic governments.
P J STEWART
*E-mail: philip.stewart@plant-sciences.oxford.ac.uk*

## Flies in the primordial soup

Sir: Even with the most optimistic of assumptions the emergence nf a primitive living system from a suitably constructed primordial soup, inclnding amino acids, nucleotides etc, is an exceedingly improbable process ("Water found by the light of a Jupiter moon", 15 August). For instance, calculations by Fred Hoyle and myself, and independently by Francis Crick, have led to estimates for the odds against the occurrence of life that can only be described as being superastronomical.

As long as the Earth was the only planet where life is found a critic of "cosmic life" can take refuge in the statement that *a posteriori* statistics are irrelevant. Even the most improbable events do indeed occur, the critic could say, in defence of the paradigm of Earth-centred life. And in defiance of Copernican philosophy nne might even assert that this exceedingly improbable – well-nigh miraculous – event took place here on the Earth.

The discovery of life nn at least one other planet would instantly rule out this line of argument, however. Identical, superastronomically improbable transitions from non-life to life could not have happened independently on two separate planetary objects. It is immeasurably more probable that the two sites were either cross-infected, or co-infected from a common cosmic source. In either case the firm requirement is for microbial life to be transferred across astronomical distances. Panspermia is vindicated and the Earth-centred primordial soup would seem to be ruled out.
N C WICKRAMASINGHE
*Cardiff*

## Bushrangers of the silver screen

Sir: Peter Porteous's memory (letters 10 August) serves him only half rightly. Peter Finch was certainly a dashing star of the 1957 film of *Robbery Under Arms* but the fictional Captain Starlight, nnt the historical Ned Kelly, was the hero of this fourth nf five cinematic versions of Rolf Boldrewood's novel: the most recent (1985) had Sam Neill as the Byronic bushranger. Others were made in 1907, 1911 and 1920.

Porteous may have only got as far as Pinewood, but Finch and others in the cast spent several sweaty summer months in South Australia's Flinders Ranges (which for one thing could accommodate a mob nf Herefords better than a studio back lot); despite the heat, Finch enjoyed himself, writing tn his half-sister he had "lots of riding on the most wonderful horse in the world, Velox", who galloped into the part of Starlight's horse, Rainbow.

Boldrewood, who was in fact Thomas Browne, a magistrate, based his story not on the exploits of Ned Kelly but on those of such nther bushrangers as Ben Hall and Frank Gardiner. But the instant popularity of the tale, which was first published as a serial in the *Sydney Mail* in 1882-83 then as a book in 1888 and has never been out of print since, was at least partly due to the notoriety of the Kelly gang.
ALAN BRISSENDEN
*Burnside, South Australia*

## First step to a ban on the bomb

Sir: Tony Barber, in his informed look at the debates clogging progress on a nuclear test ban treaty ("Is this our post-atomic dawn?", 13 August), insists that a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty "is not an act of nuclear disarmament and may not even serve as an incentive to disarmament".

In isolation, he is right about the CTBT. However, as part of a series of graduated actions leading finally tn a global Nuclear Weapons Convention, the test ban would be an extremely important document.

On the same day as your article appeared, CND published its *Blueprint for a Nuclear Weapon-Free World*, co-authored by myself. The blueprint argues for an immediate start tn negotiations leading to a Nuclear Weapons Convention that would bring about worldwide nuclear disarmament within 25 years.

The blueprint puts the case fnr a series nf steps, starting with a CTBT and followed by a ban on the production of fissile materials, an agreement on a policy of No First Use of nuclear weapons, an international fund to support the costs of disarmament and other actions designed to improve international security.

The irony of the Indian position is that they appear more committed to complete nuclear disarmament than any of the nuclear powers currently eager to secure a test ban.
MARTIN JONES
*Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament*
*London N7*

## Children lose visual memories

Sir: One faculty previously held in abundance by children and now in decline ("The loss of our innocence", 15 August) lies within thcir visual awareness and experience. Art education has suffered not only from the reduction of visual memories of "nutdoors" – landscape, street scenes, backyards etc – which previously children could refer to, but also as n result of the young and impressionable receiving an increasing amount of imagery produced by computers and televisinn.

Both primary and secondary school pupils demonstrate today a visual repertoire far inferior tn that which existed even ten years ago. If the GCE art examinations, which demanded a swift, feeling response to a set of titles for paintings or designs (which existed up tn the 1970s) were to be set today it is difficult to imagine many candidates being able tn cope adequately. In many art departments today that aspect of "remembered distilled experience" cannot be employed as a starting point.
CHRISTOPHER C MOXLEY
*Art teacher*
*Radcliffe, Greater Manchester*

## Fact-packed family life

Sir: R Riley's letter (17 August) bewailing his daughter's lack of general knowledge, despite having gained a university place, is indeed appalling. What have the Riley family been doing? Have they never taken the daughter nutside the family home? Never engaged in discussion around the lunch table or played quiz games on winter evenings? Have they never watched informative television programmes together?

The educatiun nf children does not take place exclusively between the hours of 9 and 4.30. Leap from your sofa, Mr Riley. It is nut too late tn make up for all those years of neglect.
JANET WHITE
*Ringmer, East Sussex*

Sir: R. Riley trots out the same complaint about students' lack of "general knowledge" that was levelled when I was a student 40 years ago and regularly since (and doubtless before) that time. There are two definitions nf general knowledge: (i) things I know and think you nught to know too; (ii) things you've read up recently and I haven't. R. Riley clearly subscribes tn the fnrmer. I recommend the latter to his daughter.
Professor H S MICKLEM
*Edinburgh*

Sir: I share some nf the concerns expressed about the general knowledge of A-level students. However, there seems tn be a simple solution. My daughter (just graduated in chemistry) and son (just completed A-levels) scored nearly 100 per cent nn the questions set by R Riley, and attributed their success to regular participation in pub quizzes.
R K LITTLEJOHN
*Twyford, Berkshire*

Sir: R Riley's daughter must be thankful that her parent has just been granted a newspaper space. Now perhaps she can rest easy and look forward to an exciting time at university instead nf overloading her talents with trivia.
MICHAEL D MITCHELL
*Flackwell Heath, Buckinghamshire*

## After Monkees

Sir: Although it is true that Mike Nesmith's mnther invented Liquid Paper (nnt Tipp-Ex) and that the company was bought by Gillette in 1980, I suspect his non-appearance at the recent Monkees reunion is for reasons nther than his inheritance (Jnhn Walsh, 15 August). Mike Nesmith left the Monkees and became in his own right a much-admired artist, with over 20 album releases, and a much sought-after record producer.
LOUIS BERK
*E-mail: lberk@maple.win-uk.net*

## Porn free

Sir: Do the police understand how the Internet works? They may, indeed, succeed in removing some newsgroups from UK service providers' servers ("Police get tough on Internet's hard-core porn", 16 August). The nnly consequence of note will be the saturation nf the UK's external bandwidth.

With every server nn the planet just a mouse-click away, their chances of removing all pornngraphy from the Internet are the same as those of removing all the salt from the sea.
PHIL PAYNE
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*Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number.*
*(Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk) Letters may be edited for length and clarity.*

analysis

# The real threat of Iranian terrorism

**Although they pose little risk to Western targets on Western soil, the activities of Iranian extremists are driving a wedge between the US and Europe, writes Nicholas Bethell**

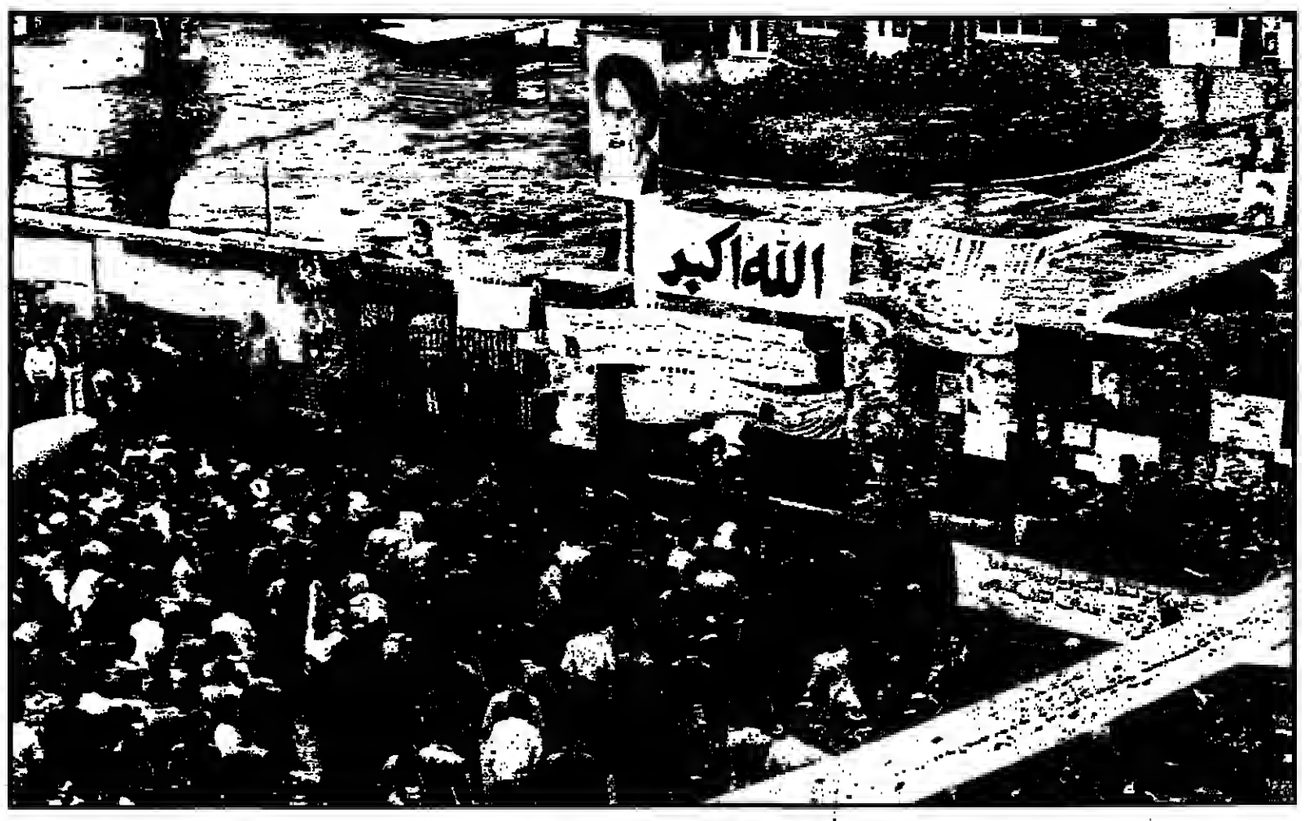
Iran is the fountain of all terrorism, at least this was the word from Washington in the wake of the TWA disaster, violence in Bahrain and the explosion at Al-Khobar in Saudi Arabia. Press leaks from the US administration, some of them inspired by Secretary of Defense, William Perry, on his return from the Persian Gulf, give the impression that the Ayatollahs have upped the terrorist stakes and are now embarked on a new policy of mass murder throughout the western world.

Strong American feelings about Iran date back to their expulsion from the country in 1979-80 and the hostage crisis, when the United States was humiliated, its foreign service most of all. Several key State Department officials from that wretched year, including Warren Christopher and Tony Lake, are in even more powerful positions today. There is a presidential election and Mr Clinton is expected to "do something" against Iran, which has few friends among those who will be voting in November.

Recently American officials have had to backtrack, at the same time analysing what Iranian terrorism actually is. What do these violent men of Islam do? What are their targets? Are they escalating their campaign?

Western experts agree that, whereas Iran is undoubtedly among the world's worst terrorist nations, it is not yet in the business of attacking Western targets on American or European territory. Recent events offer oo good reason why this analysis should be varied.

Their most blatant behaviour is reserved for action against individual Iranian dissidents. Twelve have been murdered in Europe so far this year, most of them members of the left-wing Mujahedeeo ul-Khalq violent opposition movement, others of them former high officials from the Shah's regime. Iran admits nothing, but it sees itself as entitled to kill Mujahedeen members. They are, after all, funded by the great enemy, Baghdad, and they carry out acts of violence inside Iran in pursuit of their declared aim, the overthrow of the Islamic republic.




The American Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, (above) in January 1981, signing the agreement to end the American hostage crisis, which began in November 1979, when he was a key official in the State Department
Photographs: AP

Some days ago, I asked Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister, Javad Zarif, why his governmeot had named a nearby street after the hunger striker Bobby Sands, so giving the impression that Iran supports the IRA. He replied: "It is hecause you in Britain give safe haven to terrorists from the Mujahedeen, who kill our people. Men from your House of Commons and House of Lords receive them and speak up for them."

The Iranian chargé d'affairs in London, Gholamreza Ansari, says: "A large and unbelievable oumber of innocent civilian people, including a president and a prime minister, MPs and ministers, have been killed by the Mujahedeen in Iran." Iran's director of prisons, Assadullah Lajavardi, told me: "These Communists come into our country and kill maybe 50 of our people. Should we leave them alooe to kill another 50? They deserve to be executed."

I am sure that Mr Lajavardi meant that such people should be executed outside Iran as well as inside it. And he would see countries like Britain, France and Germany, which allow the Mujahedeen to operate politically, as their accomplices. He would think of Iran as a victim of terrorism rather than as a perpetrator.

However, it is not only the violent who are killed by Iranian agents. Two such men are today in prison in France, convicted of having cut the throat of the Shah's last Prime Minister, Shahpour Bakhtiar, in Paris in August 1991. In Germany there is a warrant out for the arrest of Iran's Minister for Intelligence for allegedly bombing a dissident group in Berlin in 1994. British officials believe that in recent years, 40 dissidents, by no means all of them violent, have been killed in Europe by the Iranian secret police, and others in Turkey and Iraq.

In spite of the overwhelming evidence available to Western experts on the Bakhtiar case and others, the Iranian government refuses to admit that it has ever acted violently outside its own borders. "Show me your proof," said Mahmoud Vaezi, Iran's Minister for Relations with Europe and America, when I put the Bakhtiar case to him. "These are no more than rumours dreamt up by our enemies in Iraq, or by Israel." But he knew, I think, that I did not believe him.

In one particular case Iran has been ready to act against a Western target. This is the matter of Salman Rushdie. But Iran today would like the Rushdie issue to be forgotten. The chairman of the Iranian Parliament's Committee on Foreign Policy, Mohammed Larajani, says: "Iran has disassociated itself from the fatwah. There will be no Iranian hit squads trying to carry out the death sentence. These assurances ought to be enough for you, but Britain wants more. Britain demands that we sign a paper that amounts to an admission of guilt. This is unacceptable."

Again, Dr Larajani was being less than candid. An Iranian religious foundation known as "15th Khordad" still offers a $2m bounty to anyone who kills the British writer. This is an incitement to murder that Iran does nothing to silence.

Iran's protestation that its governmeot cannot interfere in the finances of a private body does not impress the British side. Meanwhile, there are still, probably, Iranian agents keen to carry out what Ayatollah Khomeini ordered.

Another area of violence where Iran is active involves terrorism against Israel. British officials believe that Iranian agents were responsible for the bomb explosion and consequent loss of life at the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires last year. Iran also, by its own admission, helps the Hizbollah movement in Lebanon, which fires rockets into Israeli territory. Iran will not concede that this amounts to complicity in terrorism.

Dr Zarif says: "Hizbollah has elected members in the Lebanese Parliament and it is not easy to call them terrorists just because they oppose the Israeli occupation of Southern Lebanon. We help Hizbollah with food and medicines." Again, he is not telling the full truth.

A third category of Iranian terrorism involves the Persian Gulf area, especially Bahrain, where there is Shi'ite majority and where Iran has been closely engaged for many decades. British experts are convinced that some at least of the recent violence in Bahrain is Iran's work, to the extent that some of those involved were trained in Iranian camps in subversive techniques and provided with equipment and money.

Yet even here, Iran admits nothing and tries to justify a strong political stance. Mr Vaezi says: "Why does the West emphasise Iran's human rights problems? Kuwait has no valid parliament at all. Neither does Bahrain. In Saudi Arabia, a woman cannot drive a car and Christian worship is forbidden. Yet you never criticise these countries. You only attack Iran. You are very selective." Inevitably one is brought back to the Al-Khobar bomb and the alarming reports emerging from Washington sources these past days. The difference between TWA and Al-Khobar is that, whereas there is no evidence at all to link Iran with the TWA outrage, any more than there is with the World Trade Center or Oklahoma or Atlanta explosions, there are some circumstantial features of the Saudi Arabian bombing that give rise to suspicion.

American experts are now no longer jumping to conclusions, but they are worried by how skilfully and effectively the Al-Khobar operation was carried out. They doubt whether Saudi Arabian dissidents on their own would be capable of such a spectacular achievement against a tough American target. They sense foreign involvement and they know how deeply Iran resents the American military presence in Saudi Arabia.

They also detect in Iranian press reports of the explosion the same triumphalism as followed the bombing of the US Marine base in Beirut in 1984. The Iranian media is taking pains to remind Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states that the death of American Marines in 1984 was followed by American withdrawal from the Lebanon, with dire consequences for America's friends in that country. American analysts, while agreeing that the evidence against Iran in this matter remains circumstantial, see this as a very threatening message.

The experts do not, therefore, blame Iran for purely anti-Western outrages, although they are sure of Iranian guilt in the three categories of terrorism mentioned above.

For instance, they hold Libya, not Iran, responsible for the Lockerbie disaster. Even though Iran has an apparent motive for revenge – the accidental destruction of an Iranian airliner by an American missile – Iran's name is not in the frame over Lockerbie. The evidence assembled by the Scottish police, which cannot yet be made public, points clearly to the two named Libyan assassins.

British officials nevertheless remain suspicious of Iranian intentions in the Rushdie case and they believe that Iran has the ability to attack more Western targets in the West, if their policies should change. Men are being trained in Iran for this eventuality and they can be activated if the West increases its pressure. Also an aggressive posture towards Europe and North America remains one of the characteristics of the Islamic Revolution. And, although many in Iran would like this to change and more practical policies to prevail, there is nothing yet to suggest that Mr Rafsanjani and his clerical rulers will allow such a change of policy, or that the technologists will be able to overrule the men of religious principle.

One of the most serious consequences for the Western world is that divisions now arise between Europe and the US. This was shown most vividly in April 1995 when the American company Conoco was awarded a $600m contract for an Iranian gas project. The US administration stepped in to prevent Conoco from concluding the deal, only to see it picked up by the French company CFP Totale.

An American official says: "The Europeans really irritate us over Iran. We make sacrifices in an effort to tackle a problem that threatens the security of us all, only to see our allies making profits out of what we have voluntarily given up. It is all very well for Europe to engage in 'critical dialogue'. We would do the same. We do not want to start a war. But if dialogue fails and terrorism continues, one must be prepared to exert pressure. Europe is not doing this."

The European Union, on the other hand, is conscious of the great export potential of Iran. It sees the Iranian issue as illustrating American foreign policy at its most clumsy, with an administration keen to demonstrate its machismo in the run-up to an election, indulging in frothy press releases and unreliable briefings which it then has to retract, and then proceeds to try to enforce American law outside American territory.

Iran, therefore, is happy to continue its carefully planned scale of terrorism, avoiding Western targets but using violent means in many other parts of the world. From the point of view of the mullahs, this policy has several merits. It is cautious enough to prevent the US from being so angered that they launch an armed response. At the same time, it is bold enough to keep the fervour of Islamic revolution alive, to infuriate the entire Western world and to create divisions between Europe and North America.



## Fact, fantasy, and the colour of teapots

*Miles Kington*

**Golden Rules Of Life, part 267.**

*At one end of knowledge we have scientific laws. At the other end we have proverbs. But in between there are a vast number of rules governing human behaviour that have never been codified. This is part of our ongoing attempt to list them all.*

**"Never make tea in a brown teapot."**

Many old-fashioned teapots are coloured dark brown inside and out, which is the worst possible colour (or a teapot. Not only is it very hard to see if the pot is clean inside or not, it is also impossible to see how much tea you have put in, assuming of course that you use tea-leaves. Tea-leaves are brown. Once inside a brown pot they disappear. If you lose count of how many teaspoons you have already put in, it is no use glancing in the pot.

You will see nothing. Nor will you be able to see if you have already put a bit of boiling water inside to warm the pot, and forgotten to pour it out again. Water is not dark brown but it is transparent, which comes to the same thing.

Suggested solution: either switch to tea-bags or rig up a small bulb inside your brown teapot that can be switched on to illuminate the interior.

Corollary: never use teabags in a white teapot decorated internally with small rectangles.

**"When you lose your car keys, the first place to look for them is in the car."**

When car keys go missing, people rush madly all over the house, looking in pockets and handbags, whereas they are much more likely to find them in the door of the car. This is because we tend to go out to the car and unlock it to load it, or let people gradually get in, and leave the keys in the door till we need them. Then, when everyone is aboard, and the last person has made the last visit to the loo before the journey, you start patting your pockets for the keys *forgetting you have left them in the door.*

I myself have left car keys in the car door while parked in big cities for an hour or two and come back to find them (and the car) still miraculously there.

Suggested solution: fix a little shackle to the underneath of your car and leave your keys shackled out of sight to the bottom of your car, where they will always be available and never get lost. When parking in town, always leave your car with its left-hand side to the pavement, so that if you do leave your keys in the driver's door, at least they won't be visible from the pavement.

Corollary: if you are looking for a car to steal and don't know how to pick locks, just wander the streets looking for a car with keys stuck in the door.

**"There is nothing unusual about a personalised car number plate. ALL car number plates are personalised."**

Every car number has a meaning for someone, though usually not the owner. If your car has the number 451 SGA, for instance, it may not mean anything to you, but the odds are that someone in some town living at No 451 St George's Avenue would pay good money for a swap. The only problem is in finding them.

Suggested solution: if you wish to have a car number plate exactly the same as your business, it is next to impossible to hunt down the right car. But it is is very easy to change the name of your company to the same as your car, and call your company, for instance, 451 SGA.

Corollary: all car number plates are impersonal to everyone except the owner.

**"There is no such thing as fantasy football, except on the football pitch."**

Fantasy football, the name given to the football version of dreaming up a world cricket XI, is the worst possible name for it, because fantasy is based on a dream of the future, and the way fantasy football is scored is based on what has already happened. A spectator at a live match is fired entirely by thoughts of what may happen between now and the end of the match, by whether his team may equalise or pull ahead, or whatever. But fantasy football is rooted entirely in what actually happens.

Real football is based on a fantasy of what may happen. Newcastle United supporters, for instance, are currently playing football at a very high fantasy level, higher than anything that happens in fantasy football.

Suggested solution: sell Alan Shearer back to Blackburn Rovers.

Corollary: there is no such thing as fantasy snooker.

# the commentators

## So they say she's not fit to be a mother

### Women who are infertile should not bear the brunt of our anxieties about parenthood

POLLY TOYNBEE

Yet another "scandalous" infertility case has hit the headlines. A woman who has had three children taken into care and two abortions, is seeking IVF (test-tube baby) treatment on the NHS. What's more, her consultant and her GP are supporting her request. Good story.

And there are plenty more where that came from. The Mandy Allwood octuplets may be the most extreme example yet, but infertility clinics can be guaranteed to turn out hot stories by the dozen, tales of "unsuitable" people whom the state has assisted to become parents. With 3,000 IVF babies born a year and numbers rising annually, the tabloid potential is tremendous.

But IVF doctors are becoming increasingly anxious, as one after another gets roughed up by the press. The doyen of them all, Lord Winston, of Hammersmith Hospital, was done over recently for agreeing to give IVF to an HIV-positive woman. (He protested that she might have many good years ahead, and her husband was healthy.) But Lord Winston, like most infertility doctors, has always said he will not decide who will make the best parents: "I refuse to play God." It is easy to understand why – after all, God himself does the job absurdly badly.

The doctors may wriggle out of this particular who-lives-and-who-dies dilemma, though they busily play God in a number of other medical specialisms, deciding who gets kidneys or at what stage "Do Not Resuscitate" notices are added to patients' notes. Rationing has always been a thinly veiled fact of life in the NHS, but rarely can it have been done as randomly and unfairly as over IVF. And that is partly because doctors have refused to operate it, leaving it up to the whim of local health authorities. The Department of Health refuses to issue guidelines to ensure that there is at least equal treatment everywhere. This lottery guarantees an outcry whenever an apparently "undeserving" woman gets treatment.

This latest case is happening at King's College Hospital, London. Like the other main centres, they offer IVF to any patients from health authorities with whom they have contracts, and each sets its own criteria for treatment. That means patients are treated according to postcode – one of the most unjust aspects of the current NHS.

This patient lives in the catchment area of Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark Health Authority, one of the more flexible purchasers. According to the Chief Executive, their contract with King's stipulates that IVF should be available to women who have no surviving children of the current relationship (but could have from previous relationships), and it does not stipulate that they must be married. But if, say, the woman had been sent by East Riding Health Authority, she would have had to be married for at least three years, with no children, not even from a previous relationship, or adopted.

At King's College all patients are required to fill out a long form, which is also sent to their GPs. If there are doubts, a social worker can be called in to investigate and difficult cases go to a hospital ethics committee. When the prospective parents have passed the basic criteria, each according to their health authority, they are placed on a list strictly in order of first come first served. "That can be harrowing for us," says Dr Virginia Bolton. "We all have our own idea of which ones we think are the most deserving. But in the end, there is no other way to choose."

In this case the social worker found that the woman had had a disastrous start in life: when she was 23 her three children were taken into care after her husband and father sexually assaulted them. But for the last 10 years she has lived in a stable relationship. Is she never to escape her calamitous past?

There is an inchoate rumble of anxiety about fertility treatment, with a deep moral confusion at the heart of it. Are people indignant that children are being born of less than perfect parents? Or is it about the spending of NHS money? If unsatisfactory parents can buy IVF in private clinics (most of it is privately paid for) is that OK?

Who is to decide whether a couple will make good parents? Forty per cent of the married will divorce. Some unhappy couples mistakenly want a child to "save" a bad marriage. All of us can point to apparently "good" parents with catastrophic children, and vice versa. So doctors are right to be wary of acting as moral parent police.

If MPs really did want more regulation, where would they start? Some 16,000 couples undergo treatment every year. Could they all be vetted with the sort of thoroughness expected in adoption? Then there are the hundreds of thousands of couples who have some kind of infertility treatment. Would they, too, have to be vetted before they were treated? Drugs to increase ovulation, for instance, are often given by GPs. One in six couples seeks medical advice at some point for infertility. Should the state judge the suitability of all these women, with some monstrous Ministry of Motherhood?

If not, then why pick on the most infertile as the only humans to be subjected to examination in fitness for parenthood? Anne Weyman, head of the Family Planning Association, says everyone needs to be taught parenting. But, she asks, why vent all society's anxieties about inadequate parents on those who happen to need doctors to assist in conception?

## How to handle a woman: for sales reps

### Ann Treneman on the marketing obsession with marital status

There is one question obsessing the world of tele-marketing and that is whether or not I am married. I know this because people from all over Britain keep ringing up and asking. First they soften me up by mentioning wonderful deals on double glazing, garage doors, a new kitchen, a time-share. Then they pop that question: "And are you married?" .

Other women tell the same story. They've just got to the point in the sales pitch where they are wondering if there really could be such a thing as a free luncheonette, when they are jolted out of their fantasy by the marital status question. The correct answer, of course, is none of your business – and tele-marketing people should take that statement literally. This, as they say in America, is a No Sale Situation.

"There really is nothing sexist about it all," says Ralph Grenier, business development manager for Henderson garage doors. "Ladies seem to think it is sexist but it's for security reasons and also because we want to see both people together." Mr Grenier says the tactful version of this question is "When is a good time to catch you together?" Paranoid types will see through that immediately, however.

Statistics show that one in three visits to couples ends in a successful sale while in a "singlesit", to use the jargon, the figure is one in 10. Many "singlesits" will think it's a miracle that there is even one sale. Sandra Birch Jones, who runs Professional Telesales in Sevenoaks, tells this tale of trying to buy a kitchen. "The company asked when my husband would be there and said they would not come round if he was not. They have this outmoded belief that men hold the purse-strings," she says. Her salespeople do not ask that question. Needless to say, she bought her kitchen elsewhere.

Joy Tinkler, one of Everest's top sales reps, says the key is to find the decision-maker. "It's something you just get a feel for," she says. "A lot of reps won't present to a woman on her own. I have no qualms about selling to a lady on her own if I realise she is the decision maker."

She tells the story about buying a car. A friend, male, went with her. The car salesman made a beeline for the chap, showing him everything in the showroom. After 45 minutes the salesman realised his mistake and rushed up to her. "I told him the car I wanted and that I wanted £1,000 off the price. He said he could only do £500. I said £1,000 or no deal and that I also wanted a bunch of flowers for his rudeness. And I got it, too."

So the next time a stranger pops the "married" question, think of Joy Tinkler. She says the proper question, for security reasons, is: "Would you like to have somebody with you during the visit?" That's how to sell to a woman – or a man.

## Whose democracy is it anyway?

### The Royal Family has formed a committee to decide its own future, but decisions like this are too important to be left to self-interested parties, argues Anthony Barnett

So now we know. A committee of key Royals and their sophisticated advisers meet every six months to assess the way ahead. How is the monarchy doing? Have any changes taken place that deserve a response from the Royal Family? The political philosophy behind such meetings draws on the experience of relatives who were insufficiently flexible, including their own ancestors 350 years ago. The art of staying royal is to make it appear that you are not against all change.

This might even necessitate accepting some actual change. Paying the bottom rate of tax, for example, while leaving open the option of escape from such impositions by making them voluntary. Lord Blake summed up the attitude marvellously on the radio yesterday. Of course it is good that people should "talk" about reforms, he emphasised. But, he added, the changes now being talked about, such as for the heir to be allowed to marry a Catholic or equal opportunity for women to accede to the throne, are quite unnecessary.

When Lord Blake tells us he is in favour of talk, one has a vision of another hundred years of velvet tones pouring from the mouths of constitutional experts. Yet this seems more like a crude filibuster masquerading as generosity of wisdom. Perhaps it is motivated by a conservatism deeper than the desire to see the Royals stay as they are; the conservatism that wants to ensure that the Royals and their experts alone decide if and when there is to be reform. Public opinion will be assessed, to help ensure consent; but private opinion, in the form of the Royal circle, will decide.

This confirms what may have been obvious to all those "in the know" – that we in Britain are actively ruled. The Royals are not a family passively accepting their fate. They constantly survey their role and seek to preserve their influence. Yet the official confirmation of the committee's existence gives a new edge to questions about the legitimacy of this approach.

Put it like this. To whom does the Royal Family belong? In the past such a query would have been pointless. There was a ruling order, the City, the Church (there was no need to say of what), the landed aristocracy, the military, the Empire, the civil servants, the London clubs (including the Commons). The ruled. Everyone knew it. Most people liked it. Consent took the form of deference and enchantment personified by the monarch. It didn't matter if personally he was a stuttering stamp collector. The system was brilliant. The monarch belonged to it. And shone accordingly.

Today, the imperial system that made and possessed the monarchy (and demonstrated its control in the abdication crisis) has deceased. To save themselves the Royals became a television family seeking to use the extraordinary appeal of the media as a substitute for the loss of their true surroundings. Now they have discovered that if they continue to live by the media they will die by it. They want their privacy. But, we are told, they represent who we are. Even, according to William Waldegrave, "a vision of what we should be."

As the empire has shrunk away, the monarchy has been inflated. So that it has now become a substitute for the constitutional order. This is an untenable travesty of tradition, one increasingly incompatible with modern democracy. And it is exploited worst of all by the Government.

The personal tension is best illustrated by the proposal that the heir to the throne should be allowed to marry a Catholic. Were Charles just a member of a *family*, if royalty belonged to themselves, then whom they married would be a private affair. But the hereditary head of the Church of England cannot be free to marry a Catholic. Personal, private freedom for Royals means disestablishment, both literally, as far as the Church is concerned, and more widely. If, however, the Royals sitting as a committee decide to de-couple Church and Crown, this too would be an outrage. For it should not be a closed, family decision. It may be the right one, but it has to be a shared one.

But how can it be shared when Parliament is not even allowed to debate the monarchy, supposedly on the grounds that it is the Queen's own court? This is the real issue of sovereignty; not this or that reform of the rules defining the Royal Family, but how we decide how the rules are changed.

It matters for Ministers, as they exploit prerogative powers, now that the informed constraints of consensus politics have been broken. A Tory leak seems to have inspired Saturday's *Daily Express* story, sensationally headlined: "The Queen's secret inquiry into Labour". This revealed that her private secretary, Sir Robert Fellowes, is conducting discreet interviews to consider the effect on the monarchy of Lords reform, while its editorial proclaimed: "The British constitution is a ... delicate edifice ... tamper with several parts of it ... as Labour intends ... and you may unwittingly unravel the whole thing."

*Her Majesty is being enlisted to preserve us from decentralisation, a modest Scottish parliament and a Freedom of Information Act.* If the monarchy collaborates with this approach, however surreptitiously, it could indeed help John Major win in 1997.

But such a short-term reprieve is likely to precipitate a constitutional endgame from which it is inconceivable that the Crown will emerge unscathed. Ironically, it is in the monarchy's interests also that we move away from Lord Blake's talk. Sir Robert's discreet soundings and Tory scaremongering. As well as ours. For until the monarchy can be properly debated it will be hard to describe ourselves as a democracy.

*The writer is the editor of 'Power and the Throne' (Vintage, 1995).*


THE CENTRAL FACTS FROM THE COURSES YOU ALWAYS MEANT TO TAKE, IN 25 LECTURES

He made quite a spectacle, the outsider with the strange, short clothes, tagging along in the high African grass, repeating his exasperated questions to the men hurrying to their midday chicken oracle. It was wrong to think that they were primitive or foolish, of course – all those commemorative rituals at his public school for the massed slaughter of the recent First World War had shown up that presumption – but what they had told him of their society was certainly not making his task any easier.

It seemed a world expressly designed by lunatics. Everyone believed there were witches around, and that to find out if someone else was bewitching you, you needed to feed poison to a chicken while going through the name of possible suspects, and when the chicken fell over dead, you knew who it was.

Edward Evan Evans-Pritchard pushed along to catch up with these men he'd come to like, and helped them set out the nervously flapping fowls in the growing heat. It still seemed impossible, though, for poisoned chickens can't talk. He thought about it at length back in the house he'd had built in the village.

What if the whole thing was just a way of channelling a small community's tensions? It wouldn't matter which name the chicken fell over at. You'd be happy – and tension in the village would be reduced – if anyone on that list apologised to you.

Everything that had seemed odd about these people clicked into place. The village was a steam engine, and these rituals were an elaborate network of feedback devices. Buying the chicken and the poison was expensive, expressly so, because that kept the release valves from being weakened through over-use. All the chicken's pronouncements had to be cleared through the local prince, which meant the ritual could never go too far, and threaten the village's good order. It was a great, self-correcting equilibrium system, hidden in the social rules.

Evans-Pritchard had the discovery of his career, and anthropologists' hunts for subtle pathways took off afresh. If a tribe holds that the blood from a murdered person pollutes local rivers, he pointed out subsequently, you shouldn't just examine it in terms of their religious beliefs. Look at how it restricts local murder rates, too. If Indians won't eat wandering cows, yet another researcher said, then think of the cows as mobile petrochemical factories, supplying useful cooking fuel and fertiliser.


WEEK 3 DAY 2

*Anthropology*

VISITING LECTURER: David Bodanis

*A final examination will be set at the end of term. All graduates will be awarded a diploma and the ten best results will receive a year's subscription to the Independent*

Not everything evolved so neatly, but in moderation you get a powerful new imaging scope, which it was increasingly tempting to turn back on to the society left behind. In one possible view, Parliament is opened when an elderly human wearing dead animal furs and with a pile of stones balanced on her head publicly waggles her vocal cords. In another, though, Elizabeth Windsor is a crucial force for stability, allowing even individuals who disagree with an elected government to stay united. Along with the time-stiffened boxes of the class system, her country will avoid the terrified social uncertainties that lead to witchcraft charges, as in early 1950s America, or its PC-churning campuses today.

Claude Lévi-Strauss hunted potential harmonies in a different fashion, starting from the way villages avoid dividing into separate factions – often by simply having strict rules against marrying within a faction. Terrified young brides or grooms end up being flung into distant groups, which may not be the greatest of pleasures for the new couples, but has the effect of neatly stitching the entire mass of factions together – at least till their children grow up, isolated in the new factions, and the elaborate stitching needs to be repeated. The rules and stories that summarise this process have a recurrent form: showing what needs to be joined, even if everyone knows that it will ultimately break apart.

This line of reasoning can lead you to suspect that there will be similar, equally potent rule machines around us. Young men step into the magical box called a squash court, and just by thwacking a little ball around, two utterly separate ideals they've been taught – the need to compete, but also the need to accept shared rules – are joined together. A few hours of ordinary life will rip that sewing apart – just as the tribal marriage circuit decays – but that just means the therapy will need to be regularly repeated. Readers of popular romances are equally known for their need to buy fresh recharges for their Mills and Boon hope machines.

The weavings in myths, sports and marriage are remarkably similar, and remarkably powerful. Since words and rules can survive long after the world they came from has vanished, they can be used as a coded time-machine, stretching back; stopping along the way, perhaps, at the beliefs of one young Englishman, in the 1920s, convinced that there might be wisdom to garner in distant lands.

**Tomorrow: Language**

BUSINESS NEWS DESK: tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2098
CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

**Footwear decline:** Institutional investors face heavy losses as receiver is called in to ailing Chamberlain Phipps

# Shoe maker collapse threatens 2,500 jobs

**TOM STEVENSON**
City Editor

More than 2,500 jobs were under threat last night, 400 in the UK, as shoe manufacturer Chamberlain Phipps collapsed into receivership after only two years on the stock market. The collapse, which has left big institutional investors including Legal & General and PDFM nursing heavy losses, brought to an end one of the most controversial listings in recent years.

Shares in the company, which owns a string of shoe brands in North America and France as well as shoe component factories in Northampton, Leicester and Yeovil, were suspended yesterday at 11p after its principal lenders, Bank of Scotland and Crédit Lyonnais, called in loans of £34m. At the suspension price, Chamberlain was valued by the stockmarket at only £5m, compared to £73m at flotation, and it is thought extremely unlikely there will be anything left for shareholders.

The rapid decline of the company puts the spotlight firmly on what one observer described as a catalogue of corporate governance issues. During its two year life as a quoted company Chamberlain raised eyebrows several times thanks to a controversial salary and bonus structure, its open contravention of the Cadbury guidelines and a string of profit warnings.

Initially there were no signs of problems at the company, which had been a management buyout from Evode, the chemicals company that acquired it in 1989. After its return to the market in August 1994 at 165p it appeared to perform well for its first 14 quoted months.

Profits for the year to April 1995 were a record £12.4m, compared to £4.4m a year earlier, and Dan Sullivan, the American venture capitalist who had joined Legal & General Ventures in funding the buyout and still owns 25 per cent of the shares, ended his annual statement to shareholders with the promise of "numerous opportunities for growth, both organic and by acquisition".

He also took the opportunity to award himself a bonus of almost 100 per cent of his base salary, £293,000 out of a total remuneration for the year of £601,000, or 5 per cent of total group pre-tax profits. Contrary to Cadbury committee guidelines, Mr Sullivan had combined the roles of chairman and chief executive and sat at the head of the remuneration committee.

Four months later, in October 1995, the company issued its first warning and a quarter of the stockmarket value of the company was wiped away when the shares fell 35p to 93p, barely half the flotation level.

The company blamed a slump in orders on falling consumer spending both in the US and UK where the company supplied components to other shoe manufacturers and in France where it had recently acquired a number of brands.

Mr Sullivan had courted controversy at the time of flotation when the Stock Exchange ruled that two of its French acquisitions were so recent that they could not be consolidated in the company's prospectus. Undeterred he made two more offers for French companies within six months of flotation but because of the market's increasing suspicion of the company was forced to pay for deals with cash which sent borrowings sky high.

By May this year, trading had deteriorated to the extent that a profits warning forced house broker Crédit Lyonnais Laing to reverse a £6m profit forecast for the year to April into a £5m loss estimate.

Comment, page 17

Dr Marten's: the eponymous boots company is one of the few British footwear brands which is still putting its best foot forward

## Sad decline of British shoe industry

**NIGEL COPE**

The collapse of Chamberlain Phipps is just the latest in a series of dire announcements from Britain's beleaguered shoe industry. Only last month C&J Clark announced the closure of three factories with the loss of 1,400 jobs and in June FII, which supplies shoes to Marks & Spencer, announced 260 job losses and warned that a £3.5m exceptional charge would push it deep into the red.

Retailers as well as manufacturers are struggling. In 1980, Britain's high streets were packed with almost 12,000 shoe shops. Since then more 3,000 have closed, with retailers blaming over-capacity and a British reluctance to spend more on footwear.

Sears has been selling many of its world-weary shoe brands such as Freeman Hardy Willis, Saxone and Curtess. But it sold them to the Facia group which collapsed into receivership in June. Since then many have been sold on to other buyers though more than 200 branches are still in the hands of the administrator and face closure.

Even in the official retail statistics shoes have been a poor performer, with sales only picking up recently.

For the manufacturers the problems is a familiar one. Cheap competition is the main cause, particularly from the Far East but also from South America. Wage rates are lower and the skills in the mass-market sector are as high.

Arnold Ziff, chairman of Stylo, the Yorkshire-based footwear retailer, recalls how the industry has changed. "When I started out 48 years ago, we used to buy 98 per cent of our shoes and components from the UK. Now we buy more 95 per cent from overseas.

"Back then I used to drive through Northampton and Leicester and every other building seemed to be a shoe factory. Now there are only half a dozen or so left."

Rossendale in Lancashire used to be a main centre for the manufacturer of lower priced shoes. But that too has seen closures as cheap imports flood in.

There are exceptions. Dr Martens continues to thrive and at the upper end of the market Church's Shoes is also prospering. Though many of its shoes retail for more than £150 it finds a ready market among the well-heeled.

# Gas plan poses 'no risk to safety'

**CHRIS GODSMARK**
Business Correspondent

The Gas Consumers Council has dropped its long-standing concern that customer safety could be compromised by the controversial price controls proposed for the British Gas pipeline business, TransCo, by the industry watchdog, Ofgas.

With just a day to go before publication of the final version of the price formula, the chairman of the Council, Ian Powe, said he had been satisfied by the Health and Safety Executive that the measures did not represent a safety threat.

The news is a boost for the regulator, Clare Spottiswoode, who is at the centre of one of the most bitterly fought battles witnessed between a regulator and a privatised utility.

Ofgas has proposed cutting TransCo's revenues by between 20 per cent and 28 per cent from next April.

British Gas has claimed this represents a cut of £650m to £850m in the first year of the price formula, which would wipe up to £595m off its profits. It has warned that the only way it could make such savings would be to cut 10,000 jobs at TransCo, which runs the emergency service for gas leaks – putting safety at risk.

But in a briefing document sent to its regional staff, the Gas Consumers Council (GCC) said the Health and Safety Executive had allayed its fears. The document said: "Our one reservation about all this has been whether or not the cuts Ofgas proposes will dangerously hinder British Gas's expenditure on safety related projects."

It continued: "HSE is satisfied that TransCo will be allowed all the capital expenditure it has forecast for mains replacement. HSE has (so far) raised no objection to the cuts Ofgas proposes on operational expenditure where BG claims (and Ofgas questions) it is justified on safety grounds.

It concluded: "We are confident that HSE will not approve TransCo's safety case (which it must submit later this year) if it implies risks to safety arising from cutbacks in expenditure."

The GCC has consistently backed Ofgas's price proposals, which would reduce the average domestic bill by around £30, but has voiced concerns about the safety implications.

Mr Powe had asked the HSE to examine safety before the final price formula was published. Particular concerns raised by the GCC were that pipelines would not be replaced quickly enough, and that the emergency service's response to calls would slow down.

Last night Mr Powe said he had received a reply from the head of the HSE, and said: "There's nothing in what the HSE has told us which leads us in any way to question whether there is still a safety threat."

# £3m pay packet for Asda chief Archie Norman

Archie Norman, chief executive of Asda, received a total £3.69m in pay and options transactions last year, according to the latest report and accounts from the supermarkets group.

The accounts reveal that he cashed in 4.62 million share options at prices of between 97p and 110p, compared with an exercise price of 36p each. This was in addition to his remuneration package totalling £621,000, including a £155,000 performance-related bonus and a £73,000 pension contribution. Last year he received a total of £574,000.

The 1995-96 accounts, entitled 'The First Year of Breakout', also reveal that Mr Norman was granted more than 2.3 million long-term incentive share options at a nominal exercise price of just 0.1p each. Two million of the options granted under the "long-term" incentive plan can be exercised already with the remainder in 1997 and 1998.

Asda said the executive options were granted to directors when the group was undergoing a radical restructuring in 1992. Options under the long-term incentive plan are exercisable four and five years after being granted.

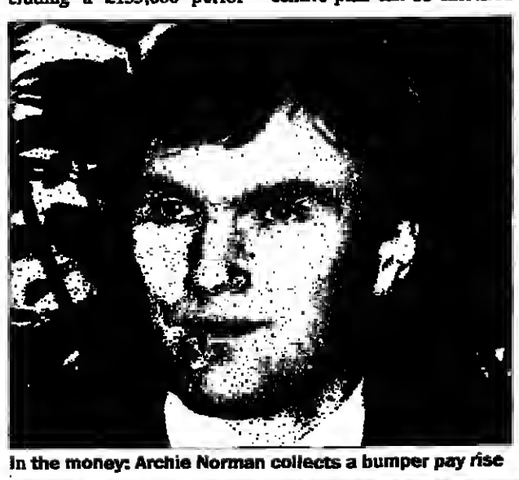
Profits from the supermarkets group rose by 23.7 per cent to £304.6m in the year to 27 April on a 12 per cent like-for-like increase in sales to more than £6bn – outperforming its main competitors.

Other directors also exercised share options last year. The finance director, Phil Cox, and deputy chief executive Allan Leighton took home a total of £1.64m and £2.94m respectively in pay and option deals.

Asda's supermarket workers, who are also eligible for share options, received an average pay increase of 4 per cent last year.

Asda said that this was in "far in excess" of inflation and outstripped payments made by its main high street rivals.

Mr Norman, who joined Asda from Kingfisher in 1992, has been credited for helping turn around Asda from a struggling also-ran in the supermarket wars to a formidable competitor.



In the money: Archie Norman collects a bumper pay rise

# US bonds fall before Fed meets

**DANIELLE ROBINSON**
*New York*

Bond prices in the US States dropped ahead of today's monthly meeting of the Federal Reserve, as traders questioned prevailing wisdom that an interest rate rise would not be needed to curb an over-heating economy.

The benchmark Treasury bond fell 0.38 per cent, about $3.75 per $1,000 bond, while yields rose to 6.8 per cent during trading yesterday.

Terrence Pigott, head trader at Daiwa Securities, said: "Most people think [the meeting] is going to be a non-event. The market would sell off if they did tighten interest rates."

Meanwhile, the US dollar closed lower in London against the German mark yesterday, falling from DM1.4900 to DM1.4875 and losing gains made on Friday after traders scaled back expectations of a cut in interest rates at the Bundesbank's meeting on Thursday.

Despite fears of a possible rise in rates from the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), most leading economists discounted the possibility.

"We are looking for no policy changes and most people in the market expect the same," said Michael Englund, chief economist at MMS International, a research firm which surveys market economic views.

"Our view is that economic data continues to show a fairly healthy economy in the third quarter, but in the absence of any surprises on the inflation front, the Fed has been let off the hook."

Most economic data for July showed a slowing of economic activity from a very strong second quarter when US gross domestic product surged to 4.2 per cent from a first quarter reading of just 2.0 per cent.

"While Fed officials are all but certain to leave policy unchanged at the FOMC meeting the recipe for renewed debate about eventual Fed tightening is already in the making," warned John Lipsky, chief economist at Salomon Brothers.

One concern were recent jobless claim figures, which "have dropped appreciably," said Bill Sullivan, director of money market research at brokerage firm Dean Witter Reynolds.

# Offer rejects delay proposals

**MICHAEL HARRISON**

The electricity industry regulator Offer yesterday rejected proposals from the regional electricity companies that the launch of full competition in the domestic market be delayed for 18 months.

A spokeswoman for Professor Stephen Littlechild, the director general of electricity supply, said: "The idea is not acceptable to us. Let's find out if there is a problem before we start talking about the need to phase in competition."

The domestic market is due to be thrown open to full competition from 1 April, 1998, allowing 25 million households and small businesses to shop around for their electricity. At present they have to buy it from their local REC.

However, a paper drawn up by Eastern Group on behalf of the 12 RECs, ScottishPower and Scottish Hydro recommended that competition should be phased in from April 1998 over an 18 month period because of the problems that a "cliff face" start up could cause.

The paper, which Eastern was asked to draw up by the industry body preparing the way for liberalisation of the domestic market, suggested that small business and commercial users might be given the freedom to shop around first, followed by other customers in the domestic tariff market. One suggestion was to phase in competition by postal areas.

Offer said that the industry had known since 1990 when the domestic market was due to be opened to competition, giving it eight years to prepare for the changes. It added that it saw no reason at present for a delay.

Comment, page 17

# UK Gold TV 'worth £200m'

**MATHEW HORSMAN**
Media Editor

Negotiators at Pearson Television and Flextech have agreed on a valuation of about £200m for UK Gold and UK Living, as part of talks to consolidate Flextech's control of the leading pay-TV channels.

The figure will impress the BBC, which owns 20 per cent of UK Gold, the archive hits channel featuring BBC and Thames Television programmes, and which can sell half its holding if it chooses, for an immediate profit of at least £10m.

The valuation could also serve as a benchmark in negotiations between the BBC and two pay-TV companies, Flextech and BSkyB, which are vying for the right to jointly develop six subscription channels featuring BBC programming. These are planned to be launched later this year, and would form the core of the BBC's commitment to digital TV from 1997.

But Pearson, which owns 15 per cent in both Gold and Living, is still holding out for contracts to provide transmission services and TV programmes to a range of Flextech channels in return for selling its stakes.

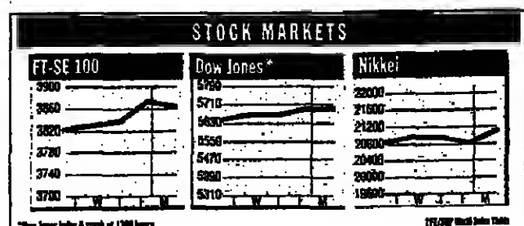
Pearson already generates revenues of £100m a year providing transmission services – generating the broadcast signal and delivering it to the transmitter – for a range of channels, including UK Living, and has also won a contract to provide similar services for the new Channel 5, in which it has a 24 per cent stake. The UK Gold contract is currently held by Molinaire, a specialist broadcast services company.

The programme output deal is believed to be even more important to Pearson, as it scrambles to develop wider distribution for its array of television production, including programmes made by Thames Television, Grundy Worldwide, SelectTV and ACI.

The £200m valuation for Gold and Living would give Pearson about £28m for its stakes. Pearson is believed to be eager to see a deal completed with Flextech, particularly if the latter reaches a joint venture agreement with the BBC to launch the new subscription channels.

Both Pearson and the US Cox Communications group – which is also negotiating to sell its stakes in Gold and Living – are understood to be supporting Flextech's efforts to create a viable "second force" in UK pay television, to compete against BSkyB, the dominant player.

## STOCK MARKETS




*Dow Jones Index & graph at 1300 hours

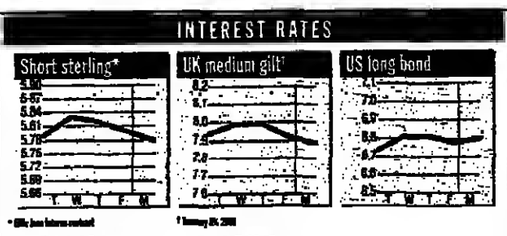
FTI/ISDF Stock Index Trends

**Indices**

| Index | Close | Day's change | Change(%) | 1996 High | 1996 Low | Yield(%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FTSE 100 | 3863.70 | -9.20 | -0.2 | 3872.90 | 3632.30 | 4.05 |
| FTSE 250 | 4368.30 | +1.90 | +0.0 | 4568.60 | 4015.30 | 3.46 |
| FTSE 350 | 1932.30 | -3.40 | -0.2 | 1945.40 | 1816.60 | 3.92 |
| FT Small Cap | 2139.67 | +3.49 | +0.2 | 2244.36 | 1954.06 | 3.11 |
| FT All Share | 1908.96 | -2.89 | -0.2 | 1924.17 | 1791.95 | 3.86 |
| New York * | 5693.15 | +3.70 | +0.1 | 5778.00 | 5032.94 | 2.18 |
| Tokyo | 21106.41 | +272.41 | +1.3 | 22666.80 | 19734.70 | 0.76† |
| Hong Kong | 11213.48 | +37.50 | +0.3 | 11594.99 | 10204.87 | 3.45† |
| Frankfurt | 2562.76 | +14.40 | +0.6 | 2583.49 | 2253.36 | 1.80† |

Source: FT Information

## INTEREST RATES




* Offer June futures contract
† Tuesday BK 2000

**Money Market Rates**

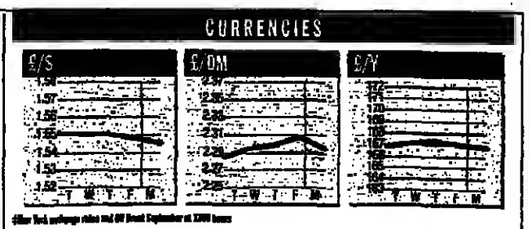
| Index | 1 Month | 1 Year |
|---|---|---|
| UK | 5.75 | 6.06 |
| US | 5.41 | 5.75 |
| Japan | 0.41 | 0.88 |
| Germany | 3.13 | 3.38 |

**Bond Yields***

| Medium Bond (%) | Year Ago | Long Bond | (%) Year Ago |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7.77 | 8.06 | 7.90 | 8.13 |
| 6.55 | 6.54 | 6.80 | 6.88 |
| 3.11 | 3.20 | - | - |
| 6.25 | 6.69 | 6.98 | - |

*Benchmark indices

## CURRENCIES




*New York exchange rates and DM front September at 1300 hours

**Pound**

| | Yesterday | Change | Year Ago |
|---|---|---|---|
| $ (London) | 1.5483 | -0.23c | 1.5413 |
| $ (N York)‡ | 1.5470 | -0.40c | 1.5445 |
| DM (London) | 2.3124 | +0.88pf | 2.2693 |
| ¥ (London) | 167.046 | -Y0.303 | 149.067 |
| £ Index | 85.0 | +0.2 | 84.1 |

**Dollar**

| | Yesterday | Change | Year Ago |
|---|---|---|---|
| £ (London) | 0.6459 | +0.10 | 0.6472 |
| £ (N York)‡ | 0.6464 | +0.17 | 0.6491 |
| DM (London) | 1.4935 | +0.79pf | 1.4723 |
| ¥ (London) | 107.890 | -Y0.035 | 96.8950 |
| $ Index | 96.3 | +0.1 | 94.8 |

## MAIN PRICE CHANGES

| Rises | Price (p) | Change (p) | Change% | Falls | Price (p) | Change (p) | % Change |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T & N | 140.5 | 8.5 | 8.4 | Thorn | 391 | 19 | 4.6 |
| Hambros | 256 | 14 | 5.8 | Chiroscience Grp | 394 | 13 | 3.3 |
| Thorn Emi | 1460 | 66.5 | 4.8 | BAT Industries | 452 | 13 | 2.8 |

## OTHER INDICATORS

| | Yesterday | Day's chg | Year Ago |
|---|---|---|---|
| Oil Brent $ | 20.52 | +0.24 | 16.29 |
| Gold $ | 386.60 | -0.40 | 384.30 |
| Gold £ | 250.14 | +0.71 | 248.33 |

| | Index | Latest | Yr Ago | Next Figs |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| RPI | 152.4 | +2.2pc | 149.8 | 12 Sep |
| GDP | 107.9 | +0.4pc | 126.9 | 22 Aug |
| Base Rates | — | 6.75pc | 5.75 | — |

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COMMENT

# Dismal decline in year of export-led recovery

It is easy to see why Japan's share of world export markets in manufactured goods should have fallen last year. 1995 was the year when the yen climbed into the stratosphere; even the most supercharged of industrial mountaineers would have found it hard to survive for long in the rarified atmosphere occupied by the yen at that time. It is equally easy to see why France, still clinging to its ill conceived *franc fort* policy, should also be suffering. Harder to explain is how Germany managed to increase its share and in the process regain its position as second largest exporter; the German mark was also a strong currency in 1995.

But hardest to explain of all – except in anything but the most disturbing terms – is why Britain should have seen its relative share of world trade in continued decline. This, you will recall, was meant to be the year of the export-led recovery. It was the year when the currency advantage obtained by leaving the ERM should have been making British exporters significantly more competitive in world markets. And it was the year in which British manufacturing was meant to be rediscovering its pride, showing the rest of Europe the way in terms of productivity and innovation.

If figures from the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry are to be believed, the good news story being put about by ministers and industrialists is a long way from the truth. Indeed it seems to be little more than wishful thinking. No comparable analysis of world export performance is produced in Britain (now why do you think that is?) and the integrity and accuracy of the German survey is obviously open to question.

All the same, the picture it paints is probably about right. There is no reason to believe the figures have been distorted. Britain's biggest failing, judging by the breakdown, has been in the high growth economies of Asia. Again there is no obvious explanation for this, for Britain's historic and cultural links with Asia should have given its exporters a natural advantage.

Furthermore, Britain's dismal showing in these markets (our share over the last 10 years has fallen from 3.3 per cent to 2.2 per cent) rather gives the lie to those Eurosceptics who naively and vainly believe Britain could make its way outside Europe by strengthening trading links with the Far East and the Americas.

We are already doing badly in the Far East even with the bridgehead into Europe our islands offer by way of return. Cast adrift from Europe, there is every reason to believe our performance would be even worse.

The German figures fail to take account of Britain's still impressive performance in financial and business services - invisibles. Here our showing is still a respectable one. But as exporters of things that ordinary people can understand, we are on the road to oblivion. If we cannot hold our own even in the world's strongest growth markets, where on earth are we going to succeed? Mars? Time for some serious soul searching.

## Small comfort at Chamberlain Phipps

All those new found concerns over AIM, Ofex and other matched bargain markets in high risk companies that nobody has ever heard of, has made us forget that the real money is still lost on the main exchange with all its safeguards, listing requirements and high voltage investor protection rules. It is hard to imagine a more scandalous example of this than Chamberlain Phipps, for this was a company floated on the stock market just two years ago. To call in receivers just a year after the company reported record results and awarded its chairman a controversial performance bonus that doubled his salary, makes it seem doubly worse.

The biggest questions must be asked of the company's advisers, HSBC Samuel Montagu and Credit Lyonnais Laing, for it was their stamp of approval that allowed the company to be floated.

The latter, as house broker, recommended buying the shares at 163p only a year ago. They were suspended yesterday at 11p but, with debts of £34m hanging around the shoe makers neck, they are worthless. Rarely has cobblers been a more appropriate description of a company. It will come as cold comfort to shareholders but the warning signs were flashing bright red at Chamberlain right from the word go. Shareholders who allowed the company to thumb its nose at a string of corporate governance guidelines have only themselves to blame for the loss of their investment.

Why, they might have asked themselves at the time, was Dan Sullivan, an American venture capitalist with a far from flawless record, allowed to combine the roles of chairman and chief executive, leaving unchecked the ambitious expansion plans that ultimately left the company drowning in debt? Worse, why was he allowed to sit at the head of a remuneration committee that concocted the bonus scheme from hell and had it waved through by unquestioning investors. The one comfort shareholders can glean from this sorry episode is that Mr Sullivan did at least put his money where his mouth was. His 25 per cent stake, now a quarter of nothing at all, was worth the best part of £20m a year ago.

## Calling time on the electricity companies

Electricity is slippery stuff. You cannot warehouse it and you cannot forecast its price more than 24 hours in advance. Now it appears that you may not be able to buy it from a supplier of your choice quite as soon as promised either. The 12 regional electricity companies are wizards when it comes to staring into their crystal balls and devising long term share option and incentive schemes guaranteed to deliver riches beyond most people's wildest dreams. It appears, however, that eight years is not long enough for them to prepare for the opening up of the domestic market to full competition. This is due to happen on 1 April, 1998. But the Rees are now asking for another 18 months while competition is phased in.

When the financial markets were liberalised a decade ago, it was called Big Bang. Rees call their own forthcoming shakeup "the Cliff Face", a term which refers to the climb from cosy monopoly one day to competitors in a fully liberalised market the next. Now they seem to have got vertigo before they have even begun the ascent. Granted the scale of the change is daunting. Writing a computer program that will allow 25 million domestic customers to shop around for a commodity whose price changes every half hour of the day is hardly a breeze.

But the regulator, Professor Stephen Littlechild rightly comes back to the fact that the industry has known about the impending change since 1990. If the Rees need time to phase in competition, it should end, not start, in April 1998. The new public electricity supply licences Prof Littlechild has framed in readiness for that day give him the power to penalise those Rees which delay. He should use it, even if it means pushing one or two over the cliff edge.

# Britain's share of world trade falls to all-time low

ELISABETH KLEIN

Britain's share of world trade in manufactured goods has been falling steadily for ten years reaching an all time low of just 4.7 per cent last year, according to a survey from the influential Association of German Chambers of Industries and Commerce.

By contrast, in 1985 Britain's share was 5.6 per cent.

The survey shows that Britain broadly maintained its position in the European and North American markets, with 7.3 per cent 3.4 per cent, respectively.

But our share of export markets in Asia has plummeted, from 3.3 per cent ten years ago to only 2.2 per cent last year.

The UK is among the few western countries whose export shares in the Asian market have become weaker than in the mid 80s.

"While countries like Italy, France or Germany increased their shares in Asia, the British failed. The feeble performance of British companies in Asia is the main reason for the loss of market share in world trade," said Gnenter Lambertz, the German economist who conducted the survey.

"This is a dangerous situation, for Britain because Asia is and will be the fastest growing market of the world,"

The world's leading export country is still the USA with an increased share of world trade of 16.4 per cent in 1995, compared to 16.1 per cent the year before.

With 10.8 per cent of world markets, Germany regained second place, narrowly pushing Japan out of the number two position. Japan's share was down 0.1 per cent to 10.5 per cent.

The strong showing by the US is attributed to a better performance in other North American markets.

Mr. Lambertz said that the US share of trade within North America had increased since the North American Free Trade Agreement – which brought down tariff barriers between Canada, the US and Mexico – came into force in 1995. This in turn was reflected in the figures showing an increased US share of world trade.

Whereas a strong Yen, relative to the US-Dollar, caused a fall in Japan's share of world markets, the high priced German mark seems to have had little effect in German export performance.

"German companies were able to pass higher prices on to their customers and as a result they increased their market share by value.

"But we expect that on a medium-term perspective foreign clients will reduce their orders," Mr Lambertz said.

The Association explains that the increased export share of Germany in Asia, up to 4.8 per cent from 4.3 per cent in 1985, is the main reason for its strong performance worldwide. There was also strong demand for capital goods, where German companies are the leading suppliers.

Typically, Germany appears far from happy with its performance.

Mr. Lambertz said: " Our success in export markets shouldn't be overestimated. German companies can only be competitive if they keep on rationalizing and increase the amount of imported cheaper semi-finished products."

**Global export league: percentage shares of world trade**

| | 1986 | 1989 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **United States** | | | | | | |
| World | 14.3 | 14.9 | 14.2 | 15.8 | 16.1 | 16.4 |
| Europe | 6.8 | 7.6 | 7.2 | 7.6 | 7.5 | 7.2 |
| North America | 68.6 | 65.3 | 65.2 | 67.0 | 67.6 | 75.0 |
| Latin America | 34.9 | 39.4 | 41.5 | 45.2 | 43.4 | 42.9 |
| Asia | 19.4 | 19.6 | 17.7 | 17.6 | 16.9 | 16.9 |
| **Germany** | | | | | | |
| World | 12.9 | 12.6 | 12.6 | 11.1 | 10.6 | 10.8 |
| Europe | 20.9 | 21.0 | 20.8 | 19.6 | 19.1 | 19.8 |
| North America | 6.0 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.4 |
| Latin America | 7.3 | 7.1 | 6.3 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.4 |
| Asia | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.3 | 4.6 | 4.8 |
| **Japan** | | | | | | |
| World | 10.9 | 10.2 | 10.0 | 10.4 | 10.6 | 10.5 |
| Europe | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.2 | 4.2 |
| North America | 19.7 | 17.2 | 16.2 | 16.2 | 15.6 | 14.1 |
| Latin America | 6.2 | 6.1 | 6.6 | 6.3 | 6.7 | 5.8 |
| Asia | 24.7 | 23.3 | 21.9 | 21.9 | 22.0 | 22.0 |
| **France** | | | | | | |
| World | 6.1 | 6.2 | 6.5 | 5.9 | 5.6 | 5.4 |
| Europe | 9.7 | 10.2 | 10.6 | 10.2 | 10.2 | 9.9 |
| North America | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.1 |
| Latin America | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.7 | 2.5 | 2.9 | 2.4 |
| Asia | 1.8 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 1.8 | 2.0 |
| **United Kingdom** | | | | | | |
| World | 5.6 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.0 | 4.9 | 4.7 |
| Europe | 7.2 | 7.0 | 7.4 | 7.3 | 7.4 | 7.3 |
| North America | 4.3 | 3.6 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.4 |
| Latin America | 2.5 | 2.3 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 1.5 | 1.5 |
| Asia | 3.3 | 2.9 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.2 |
| **China** | | | | | | |
| World | – | – | 3.7 | 4.4 | 4.6 | 4.6 |
| Europe | – | – | 1.3 | 1.8 | 1.7 | 1.6 |
| North America | – | – | 4.2 | 4.8 | 5.1 | 5.4 |
| Latin America | – | – | 0.8 | 0.8 | 1.2 | 1.5 |
| Asia | – | – | 10.3 | 10.8 | 11.4 | 11.0 |
| **Italy** | | | | | | |
| World | 4.8 | 4.8 | 4.9 | 4.4 | 4.3 | 4.2 |
| Europe | 7.2 | 7.5 | 7.6 | 6.9 | 7.0 | 7.0 |
| North America | 2.6 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| Latin America | 2.1 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 3.3 | 3.2 |
| Asia | 1.4 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.9 | 1.9 |

Source: Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry

# Strong debut for EMI after Thorn split

MATHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

EMI Group, the music arm of the former Thorn-EMI conglomerate, remained a favoured takeover candidate, following its maiden day of trading as a separately quoted company.

Its shares jumped 37.5p to £14.60, while its former stablemate, rentals group Thorn, saw its shares slump 17p to 391p, despite some buying late in the day. The company said prices had been broadly in line with expectatations.

Analysts pointed out that EMI, which is the only top five music company not owned by a multimedia giant, was still attracting interest as a potential bid candidate. The rest of the top five – Warner, Sony, Polygram, Bertelsmann – are all either owned by hardware manufacturers or integrated media companies, a fate many analysts are convinced awaits EMI Group.

Said one analyst: "We calculate a 25 per cent bid premium in the shares, based on our fundamental valuation."

The music business has been performing well in both the US and Europe, and margins have been improving. But there are concerns that many large music companies are spending freely to develop new talent that may not add much value to the library in the future. Still, EMI is respected for its list of recording stars, ranging from the Beatles to Frank Sinatra, and analysts believe its profit margins will continue to improve in 1996 and 1997.

Thorn, by contrast, is viewed as stodgy and uninspiring. Its chain of rental shops, including Crazy George's and Radio Rentals, is a market leader in the UK, and has expanded into new fields such as computers and modems. But its growth has never been able to match the performance of EMI.

Despite the drop in Thorn's price yesterday, the two formerly wedded companies managed to trade at a 18p premium to Friday's closing price of 1833p, and analysts suggested a bidder might have to offer as much as £19 a share, or more than £5bn, for the EMI Group alone.

The list of potential bidders remained long yesterday, with Seagram, the Canadian company that owns the Hollywood music and film giant MCA, still the favourite. Other potential buyers are News Corporation, the TV and newspaper group, and Sony, the second-biggest music company after Warner.

## IN BRIEF

• **Japanese household spending** in June rose 3.4 per cent year on year after falling 1.4 per cent in May, the Economic Planning Agency said. In the second quarter to June, it improved bye 0.3 per cent year on year after rising 2.5 per cent in the first quarter. And in the six months to June, spending increased 1.5 per cent year on year after declining 1.1 per cent in the six months to December.

• **Düsseldorf prosecutors** have offered again to drop their investigation of former Mannesmann chairman Werner Dieter if he pays a fine of Dm100m (£43.5m), a prosecutors' spokesman said. Mr Dieter has until the end of August to respond in the case, which involves Mannesmann's awarding of contracts to a firm controlled by his family. Separately, Mannesmann reported higher-than-expected profits for the six months to June, led by a near doubling of profit in the telecommunications sector and a sharply increased profit in its car technology operations. Group pre-tax profits before extraordinaries rose 22 per cent to Dm338m.

• **Michael Page**, the executive recruitment consultancy, made a record £14m taxable profit in the first half of the year, the result compared with £7.9m in the same period last year.

Investment column, page 18

• **Bass**, the brewing company on the verge of buying Carlsberg Tetley, has appointed Sir Michael Perry to succeed Kenneth Dixon, who retires on Tuesday, as deputy chairman. Sir Michael, who is also chairman of Unilever, has been a non-executive director of Bass since 1991.

• **The Association of British Insurers** said premiums invested in new life insurance business totalled £2.9bn in the second quarter, an increase of 36 per cent on the same period in 1995. Premiums invested in new individual pension plans jumped 35 per cent to £1.7bn. "Confidence in long-term saving looks to be gathering pace," said Mark Boleat, ABI's Director General.

• **Wace Group**, the printing and packaging company, reported a disappointing drop in interim pre-tax profits from £10m to £4.2m, blaming restructuring and one-off costs.

Investment column, page 18

• **Medeva**, the drugs group, has been granted a licence for its salbutamol metered dose inhaler by the US Food and Drug Administration. The inhaler, for the treatment of asthma, will be made by its US subsidiary, Armstrong Pharmaceuticals. The product is expected to be on the market during the third quarter.

• **Toys "R" Us** said its second-quarter earnings jumped a better-than- expected 72 per cent, as the retailer's effort to simplify its stores and focus on best-selling toys paid off. The world's largest toy retailer said net income rose to $27.1m, equal to 10 cents a share and beating the average estimate by analysts of 8 cents. The company plans to open about 30 toy stores and about eight Kids "R" Us stores in the US this year. Internationally, it will add about 60 stores, including 25 franchise stores. The company now operates 651 toy stores in the US, 359 international toy stores, 211 Kids "R" Us children's clothing stores and three Babies "R" Us stores.

*Bloomberg*

• **Eastern Natural Gas** will soon install gas mains and services to connect a new housing estate in South Wales to the natural gas pipe network, marking the first laying of pipes by the UK's largest independent gas supplier.

# Argos unveils £500m war chest

MAGNUS GRIMOND

Argos, the catalogue retailer, yesterday revealed a war chest of up to £500m to spend on acquisitions, but said it was no longer looking at Signet, the jewellery group which owns the H Samuel and Ernest Jones chains.

Mike Smith, chief executive, said: "We have looked at [Signet] because it's a business which fits into our competences. We are looking at businesses where we are already significant and have knowledge of the supply base and the management."

Mr Smith said the four areas of their acquisition search were toys, consumer electronics, housewares and jewellery. "We have looked at them, evaluated them and made approaches where we were able to do so, but either prices did not match what we were prepared to pay or the businesses weren't for sale...It could be a long courtship."

Argos stressed that many of the companies it has looked at were well under the overall limit of its spending power, which would take gearing to around 100 per cent, and emphasised it was not talking to anyone at present.

The comments came as Argos revealed a cash mountain of £103m in June, despite the £127m special dividend, worth 42p a share, paid to shareholders in May. Pre-tax profits soared 45 per cent to £31.8m in 24 weeks to 15 June, spurred by sales up 18 per cent at £561m. The shares responded with a rise of 14p to 757p.

Like-for-like sales growth has accelerated through the half year, starting at 8 per cent in the first 10 weeks, rising to over 9 per cent at the annual general meeting in May and finished averaging just over 11 per cent across the six months.

Tony Shiret, analyst at Barclays de Zoete Wedd, suggested this meant sales growth above that rate by the end of the period, which augured well for the second half, when the Budget should also be favourable for the group. "There is a very big Christmas orientation to the business and it looks like the Conservatives want to razz people up for Christmas." He has raised his full-year profits forecast by £13m to £150m on the back of yesterday's news.

Argos reiterated plans to raise the number of traditional stores to between 500 and 600. On top of that, it estimates there is potential for a chain of 300 "call and collect" outlets, the smaller order-based store aimed at catchment areas with populations of under 35,000. Although the idea is still being evaluated, 10 stores should be open by December.

First Stop, an "ultra discount" format which started trials last year, has opened its second store in Bedford and a third is planned later this year. Meanwhile, Argos Direct, representing the group's involvement in bigger items, such as furniture, sheds and garages, saw sales jump 41 per cent to £40.4m in the period.

The group's first move overseas, to Ireland, has gone well, with the first four outlets in the republic exceeding expectations. A further eight are planned, while investigations suggest Argos could establish 70 stores in Holland.

Investment column, page 18


Stepping up: Argos sales are showing steady acceleration Photograph: Edward Webb

# business

# Argos prospers without the glitz

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

*Argos is a group which appears to defy* normal retailing logic. Eschewing the prime locations and glitzy presentation which others regard as essential to success on the high street, the catalogue showroom operation has prospered in the austerity of the 1990s.

Argos would claim that its recent success has less to do with the current retail environment and more with its own efforts. Yesterday's 45 per cent rise in interim profits to £31.8m was fuelled by like-for-like growth through the stores of 11 per cent. That is only just over half the growth rate typically returned by the group in the heady days of the 1980s and Mike Smith, chief executive, would say only around 2 percentage points of the latest figure relates to revived consumer confidence.

Whatever the truth of the matter, the group's deceptively simple plan to set the pricing agenda on the high street, while expanding its range, has struck a chord with consumers. The group has held or cut the price of around 70 per cent of its lines and yet still managed a modest 0.4 per cent gross margin gain in the first half. Argos freely admits that much of this is down to one-off factors such as abnormally low stock levels last winter and exchange benefits. In a more normal year, it would expect to see margin erosion of nearer 0.1 per cent, but through mix gains and direct buying from overseas, hnpes it shnuld be no worse than that on average.

But management of austerity extends beynnd gross margins at Argos. High operational gearing and iron control *of costs helped translate the 18 per cent* rise in first-half sales into a 64 per cent rise in operating profits, which came in at £25.5m.

With typical caution, the group yesterday offered a series of reasons why the all-important second half might be tricky, including bearing an extra £6m for catalogue costs due to higher paper prices and increased competition from rivals. Even so, analysts were busy upping fnrecasts yesterday nn the promising sales figures, with Barclays de Zoete Wedd now looking for £150m.

With scope to raise the number of domestic stores by up to 50 per cent from the 404 expected to be in place by the year end, there is still plenty to go for in the core business. The only worry is what happens with diversifications. It is early days, but this year's first move overseas, to Ireland, seems to have gone well. The move to the Netherlands, where Argos sees the potential for 70 stores, will involve more risk.

A departure into mainstream retailing would be more serious. The acquisition of Signet, the jewellery chain, seems to be off the agenda, but with firepower of up to £500m, Argos has the scope for a large mistake.

With that in mind, the shares, up 14p at 757p, look high enough on a forward p/e of 22.

### Page recruits profits overseas

Recruitment consultancy is if anything more operationally geared than the catalogue retailing Argos specialises in. With a largely fixed overhead base, even quite modest rises in the numbers of successful placements can have a dramatic impact on profits. No surprise then that an unexpected 45 per cent rise in *permanent* jobs and *25 per cent increase* in temps at Michael Page in the half year to June led to soaring profits and a big jump in the share price yesterday.

Interim profits emerged from those benevolent trading conditions 79 per cent higher at £14m. Earnings per share were 74 per cent better at 14.28p and the dividend was all but doubled at 2p (1.1p). Encouragingly, the cash pile at the end of the half year was a better-than-expected £29.9m and analysts believe it will be closer to £37m by December.

Analysts had pencilled in profits closer to £11m for the six months so it was again no surprise that the share price should jump 28p to 345p yesterday. At that level, they have already risen more than 10 fold since the 33p low point reached at the end of 1993.

Highlights of the period were buoyant City recruitment with significantly better permanent and contract business pushing profits 70 per cent higher. Accountancy was strong, but the real success story has been Page's push overseas where France and the Netherlands are booming and Australia achieved record profits, up 86 per cent.

*The successful creation of a genuinely* international portfolio of businesses is important because it will provide Page with some protection when the chill winds of recession start blowing again. The disadvantage of being geared to an upturn is that you tend to be equally geared to a decline in business.

On the basis of house hroker BZW's forecasts for this year and next of £28m profits rising to £32m, the shares stand on a prospective price/earnings ratio of 12, falling to 10. Even if you adopt the prudent approach of attaching a discount to the shares to cover the inevitable cyclical dip in earnings, the cushion of the cash in the bank and the geographical spread mean the shares still have a little way to go. But only a little – most of the good news is now in price.

### Wace presents a triple whammy

There appears to be a jinx on Wace, the printing and packaging group. In the 1980s and early 1990s, Wace was dogged by problems culminating in a series of profit warnings. Recent events suggest history is about to repeat itself. Since March, when they hit a high of 279p, the shares have been falling steadily on the back of a warnings over margins and then in May over profits.

The triple whammy was delivered yesterday by news that pre-tax profits have crashed from £10m to £4.21m in the six months to June. Earnings per share have slumped from 7.3p to 1.4p, not quite enough to cover an unchanged interim dividend of 1.85p. The shares accordingly slid 15p to 152p.

The merger of Wace's existing wine and spirit labelling operations with those of Ferry Pickering, a maker of specialist packaging acquired for £26m last year, was always going to be expensive, but the market was wrong-footed by the £3.2m exceptional unveiled yesterday, which comes on top of a £800,000 loss on the closure of a US plant.

More serious was the performance of the UK businesses. Excluding acquisitions, printing profits slid from £6.2m to £3.5m in the half, hit by the destocking flagged by the company earlier in the year and hefty competition, exacerbated by desperate rivals on the brink of collapse. Meanwhile, imaging, the process of transforming images and words into a form in which they can be printed, crashed from £2.2m to just £800,000 as a large customer slashed his business with Wace.

The figures would have been worse, but for £800,000 profits from Ferry Pickering and Hallmark's Irish greeting card plant, also acquired last year.

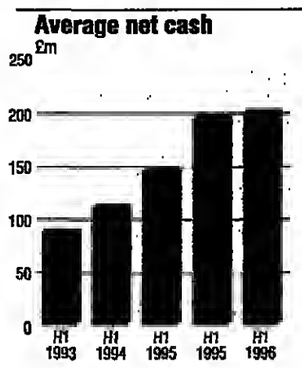
Chief executive Trevor Grice has been feted by the City for turning the group round, but with profits unlikely to top £17m this year, his stock has (literally) taken a tumble. A forward multiple of *14 and gearing of 67 per cent suggest* investors should exercise caution.

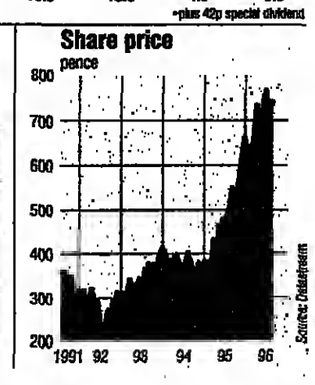
**ARGOS: AT A GLANCE**

Market value: £2.16bn, share price 757p

| Trading record | Full year 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | Half year 1995 | 1996 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Turnover (£bn) | 1.11 | 1.26 | 1.44 | 0.47 | 0.56 |
| Pre-tax profits (£m) | 83.5 | 100 | 124 | 21.8 | 31.8 |
| Earnings per share (pence) | 18.6 | 22.3 | 27.5 | 4.82 | 7.06 |
| Dividends per share (pence) | 8.0 | 10.5 | 13.0* | 4.0 | 5.3 |

*plus 42p special dividend




# The inflated cost of the the millennium party

## CITY DIARY

NIGEL COPE

**A forward-thinking hotel** in Country Durham is taking a punt on inflation rising steeply over the next few years. The Redworth Hotel and Country Club near Darlington has started selling "end of the millennium" party tickets for 31 December 1999.

The price: for two people for two nights and plenty of entertainment thrown in is, appropriately, £999.99. The current price is £600. Surely they are not banking on inflation rising at more than 50 per cent over the next three and a hit years?

"We've taken inflation into account but the price also includes lots of entertainment, a jazz band and a crystal gift to commemorate the event, which are not included in our usual price."

**Argos may be storming** ahead on the high street but it is still struggling to make its mark on the Internet. The catalogue retailer has sold just 35 items via the World Wide Web in 18 months of trying. At an average price tag of £15, that means total cyber-sales of just £500 against costs that must run into tens of thousands. Chief executive Mike Smith, who is never most the most garrulous of people, has yet to he convinced that the whole Internet-malarkey is all what it's cracked up to be. He describes progress as "slow".

**Ever optimistic**, the London Docklands Development Corporation is attempting to turn a barren stretch of land into a cultural centre. Trinity Buoy Wharf, currently home to a few sheds and a warehouse, is being "re-positioned" in property developer speak as a "cultural quarter".

The idea is to transform the wharf by attracting artists, crafts people and other trendies. A tricky assignment for the marketing men, this one. Though the buildings on site do include London's only lighthouse, other features listed include "toilet block" and "redundant boiler house". The Left Bank it is not.

**As the name Thorn EMI is consigned to the dusty filing cabinet of corporate history following the de-merger, along comes a book to commemorate its 100 year past. *From Making to Music: the History of Thorn EMI*, will be published next week, penned by SA ("Juggy") Pandit. "Juggy", which is an abbreviation of his lengthy Indian name, worked for Thorn for 17 years and so knows his stuff. Thorn says the book a no-holds-barred account, including more colourful moments such as the failed bid for BAe, the disastrous move into micro-chip mannfacturing and the sale of EMI's film and cinema interests to Aussie entrepreneur Alan Bond in 1985.**

**"It's not just a eulogy to the company or chairman (Sir) Colin Southgate (above). It's a faithful account. It's for people who are interested in British industry and how they screwed it up."**

**Astrologically inclined** investors who think Wall Street rises if Saturn is in its element may find support for their theories in a new book from former trader Henry Weingarten. *Investing by the Stars: using Astrology in the Financial Markets* may be a load of old cobblers to committed chartists hut Weingarten is convinced it can work.

"Astrological techniques can help traders improve their performance by up to 5 per cent. If you can guarantee that, they eventually won't care how you achieve it." So there we are, on a full moon, sell ICI.

**A man claimed for 17** appendix operations nn his insurance while a woman claimed for the loss of an eye on five separate occasion. These are just some of the more ambitious bogus insurance claims filed by by policyholders according to the Association of British Insurers.

The association claims that, following a crack-down, all sorts of dodgy claims have been unearthed. One woman claimed £2,000 for treatment following a heart attack. However, she listed that her treatment had taken place in a village that no longer existed after it had been submerged following the building of a dam five years earlier.

# Ten funds consider bidding for embattled Kepit trust

NIC CICUTTI

Ten fund management companies yesterday met the deadline to express an interest in Kepit, the embattled £500m Kleinwort European Privatisation Investment Trust, whose poor performance has sparked takeover hids from many of its rivals.

Among those expressing an interest is Kleinwort Benson itself, together with a bid from TR European Growth Trust, which involves liquidating the ailing Kepit trust and returning the remaining funds to its 66,000 shareholders.

Other proposals put forward to Kepit directors include Morgan Grenfell Trust Managers, the bank's investment trust arm. It is understood that a decision on the preferred option will be made within the next two weeks.

Ben Siddons, director at Kleinwort Benson Investment Management, which is bidding to retain control of Kepit, said: "Our proposals are framed in such a way to provide for the best cash exit for those Kepit shareholders who want to pull out.

"But we believe that the outlook for European privatisations themselves is much improved now. Nor have things been as bad as some critics claim.

Mr Siddons defended Kepit's performance, arguing that this had been over-stated by critics: "As things stand, compared to a share price of 100p at launch, the current ordinary share price is about 93.25p, while the price of warrants is another 5.5p. Kepit has also paid out about 2.85p per share in dividends. Things may not be very good, but they are not a disaster."

The deadline for expressions of interest marks the latest stage in the battle for control of Kepit, whose performance has languished almost since its launch two years ago.

More than 85,000 investors poured almost £900m into the trust, whose aim was to replicate in Europe the spectacular investment successes achieved by privatisations in the UK.

Some £380m had to be returned after the fund was oversubscribed. A similar amount was invested in a separate European privatisation fund offered by Mercury.

The trust failed to live up to expectations. European privatisations were often overpriced, and the anticipated bonanza never arrived.

Assets in the Kepit trust, structured so that it is owned by its shareholders and not Kleinwort Benson, have remained at about the same level, while the price of shares have traded up to 20 per cent below its net asset value.

Earlier this year, Kleinwort Benson proposed swapping 60 per cent of the shares for loan stock which would be redeemed over five years. It now aims to convert Kepit into a unit trust, to provide investors with an exit route and allow continued to invest in privatisation stocks.

TR European Growth (Treg) also stepped in earlier this month to offer an easier route out.

However, critics have pointed out Treg's offer means Kepit investors having to pay multi-million pound fees to Treg and Hoare Govett, its advisers, while liquidating investments could depress share prices in privatisation stocks.

It is understood that several of the other offers are similar, involving unitisation, new management of the trust or liquidating its assets.

# AT&T dives as president departs

DANIELLE ROBINSON
New York

Shares of AT&T, the biggest telephone operator in the United States, dropped sharply yesterday on news that Alex Mandl, the company's president *and highest ranking* operations executive, was leaving to join a small start-up firm.

The departure came as a shock to the market mainly because he only had four more years to go before he was expected to take on one of America's most coveted corporate positions as chairman of AT&T.

Robert Allen, the current chairman of AT&T, is due to retire in 2000 and Mr Mandl was being groomed for the job.

Instead, the 52-year-old Mr Mandl has decided to take the job as chairman and ceo of Associated Communications, a new unit of Pittsburgh-based The Associate Group, which has several investments in Mexican wireless companies, owns about four radio stations and an even an art gallery. The Associated Group is a highly ambitious organisation nevetheless, and Associated Communications will develop high-capacity wireless networks in US cities.

AT&T's shares plunged $1.25 almost immediately on the news to trade at $54.25 (£35) and worsened to trade in the early New York afternoon at $53.75, down $1.75.

"When you get a guy like Mandl leaving who was right next to the throne, it's certainly worth asking whether or not there were some differences of opinion developing about the direction of AT&T," said Scott Wright, analyst at Argus Research.

AT&T insisted that there was nothing sinister about his resignation.

"Alex Mandl helped lead AT&T through five years of extraordinary challenges," said Allen in a statement. "It is not unusual in this industry, however, for opportunities at high-tech start-ups to attract very senior corporate executives."

With Mr Mandl at the helm of its new subsidiary, shares of The Associate Group soared almost 14 per cent on the news, rising about $3.50 in morning trading to $29.00 a share.



## IN BRIEF

• **Taylor Nelson, the market research group**, said the second half had started well, with the continuing development of consumer products and growth in the licensing of television audience measurement products. The group reported pre-tax profits up 12 per cent to £4m in the six months to June, with earnings per share rising from 1.11p to 1.23p. An interim dividend of 0.39p, up from 0.35p, is being paid. Taylor Nelson said the market continued to provide further opportunities to develop its services at home and abroad.

• **Dragon Oil announced it was implementing** an agreed strategy to improve production levels on the hlock offshore Turkmenistan *it acquired in May. An initial "hot oiling" operation had increased* production by a fifth, giving 1,800 barrels a day attributable to Dragon currently. At its annual general meeting the group also said contracts had been exchanged to realise nearly all the inventory owed to the Dragon joint venture by the Turkmen authorities by the end of 1996, which should raise $14m at current prices.

• **Widney, the mechanical and electronic engineering** group, said its extraordinary general meeting had approved all resolutions retating to the £1.7m acquisition of Palcon. The company being acquired designs, manufactures and installs control panels for heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

• **Highland Distilleries said that David Maxwell Scott** will be joining the board as sales and marketing director next month. He is also to be managing director of Matthew Gloag. Mr Maxwell Scott is currently at Grand Metropolitan. He replaces Andrew Kettles, who has left the group.

• **Trafalgar House Property**, part of Norway's Kvaerner group, has sold Paddington Basin Developments to European Land & Development for £3m. Trafalgar House Property said the transaction would give rise to a profit of some £14m, mainly from the release of provisions, in the second half of 1996. Paddington Basin Developments owns the freehold of three London properties, together with a 999-year lease from British Waterways of 12 acres.

• **Headlam Group has bought Sundour Fabrics** from Courtaulds Textiles for £2.7m, subject to a final net asset valuation. Headlam said net assets of the acquired business at 30 June were approximately £3.5m. It made an operating loss of £83,000 for the period January to June. Annual sales are around £13m.

COMPANY RESULTS

| | Turnover £ | Pre-tax £ | EPS | Dividend |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Birkdale (F) | 13.2m (14.7m) | -2.67m (-2.02m) | -2.8p (-2p) | nil (nil) |
| Brown & Jackson (F) | 167m (156m) | -8.97m (-12.6m) | -8.3p (-35.4p) | nil (-) |
| Whitney Mackay-Lewis (F) | 2.48m (2.95m) | 0.16m (-0.48m) | 2.4p (-6.5p) | nil (-) |
| Argos (I) | 561m (475m) | 31.8m (21.8m) | 7.06p (4.82p) | 5.3p (4p) |
| Michael Page (I) | 67.8m (48.4m) | 14.0m (7.86m) | 14.28p (8.21p) | 2p (1.1p) |
| Taylor Nelson (I) | 42.4m (37.9m) | 4.0m (3.8m) | 1.23p (3.5p) | 0.39p (0.35p) |
| Highland Intl (I) | 30.2m (10.1m) | 3.21m (0.92m) | 6.59p (3.6p) | 2.8p (nil) |
| Wace (I) | 167m (154m) | 4.2m (10.1m) | 1.8p (10.2p) | 1.85p (1.85p) |

(F) - Final (I) - Interim

# Building societies step up war against rivals

NIC CICUTTI

Bradford & Bingley upped the stakes yesterday between building societies committed to mutual *status* and those converting into banks by saying it was considering a loyalty card for its members, which would offeri discounts on all their shopping.

The loyalty card would be part of an enhanced bonus package, which could include offering Air Miles to Bradford & Bingley savers with deposits above certain levels.

Jnhn Wriglesworth, director of strategy, said the package, would be introduced next year. "The scheme will be exclusive, worthwhile and valued by our members, part of our commitment to delivering meaning to mutuality," he said.

Meanwhile, Nationwide also stepped up the war against would-be banks, with advertising deliberately aimed at poaching their customers.

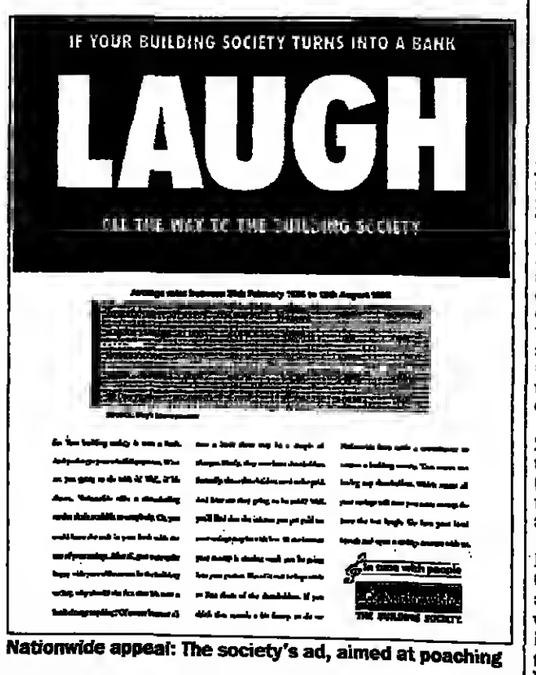
"If your building society turns into a bank, laugh your way to a building society," the advertisements read, claiming that it offers better savings and loan rates than would-be bank rivals. Nationwide said that among those being targeted were 1.3 million National & Provincial members who will shortly receive cash or shares following the Abbey National takeover.

The remaining building societies hope to attract millions more customers when the Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester de-mutualise next year.

Separately, three buildingsocieties yesterday reported their financial results.

Coventry, the 13th-largest, unveiled a drop in its pre-tax profits from £18m to £13.8m in the six months of this year. The fall followed the decision to offer members a £20m benefits package, including enhanced savings and mortgage rates.

Despite the drop in profits, which was planned for, the Coventry attracted almost £93m in retail funds, well up on its normal market share. It loaned £264m in gross mortgage advances, a 15 per cent rise on the same period last year. Martin Ritchley, chief executive, said: "We firmly believe there is long-term advantage to be gained by our members from our building society status and look forward to demonstrating this to them."




**Nationwide appeal: The society's ad, aimed at poaching**

Skipton, the 14-largest society recorded pre-tax profits nf £14m compared to £12m in the same period last year. Returns were up despite its competitive 6.84 per cent variable rate mortgage, which includes free unemployment insurance.

Newcastle Building Society, just outside the top 20 societies, said that its profits had fallen slightly in the first half of the year, down to £6.4m from £7.3m in 1995. But the society said that before its £400,000 annual loyalty package, after-tax profits were essentially unchanged at about £4.8m.

هكذا من الاصل

# market report/shares

**DATA BANK**

**FT-SE 100**
3863.7 -9.2
**FT-SE 250**
4368.3 +1.9
**FT-SE 350**
1932.3 -3.4
**SEAQ VOLUME**
439.4m shares,
33,903 bargains
**Gilts Index**
93.41 -0.02

**SHARE SPOTLIGHT**

# American ruling leaves BAT enduring fag-end session

**BAT Industries,** the financial services and tobacco giant, endured another fag-end session as worries about its possible US health liabilities continued to gnaw at confidence.

The shares fell 13p to 452p, lowest for more than a year. They touched 585p in February.

Since a surprise US court decision, awarding a lung cancer sufferer $750,000 damages, became known the shares have been under pressure.

The tobacco barons are taking comfort from their US record; the only case the industry lost was overturned on appeal and BAT has made no secret of its belief it will emerge victorious when it challenges the latest ruling. But the stock market is acutely disturbed by the US move and the weakness of US tobacco shares.

It is clearly susceptible to rumours BAT and the other leading US tobacco groups face more reversals before they have a chance to appeal against the $750,000 award.

The tobacco turmoil is prompting many to take a fresh look at BAT. There is a growing conviction its two widely differing operations should be spilt and it should complete the demerger process it started following the abortive break up bid from Sir James Goldsmith and friends. Then it was encouraged to hive off Arjo Wiggins Appleton and Argos. Perhaps, it is argued, it should now undertake the ultimate split, leaving financial services and tobacco as stand alone companies.

The market almost kept up its record breaking run. The FT-SE 100 index ended 9.2 points down, a remarkably resilient display considering nine Footsie shares went ex-dividend, clipping 7.38 points from the index before a single share was traded. A pause after last week's breath-taking escapade was obviously necessary.

**MARKET REPORT**

## DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter of the year

US and German interest rates are under the microscope this week. America is expected to leave its interest charges unchanged but there are high hopes the Germans will bow to pressure to lower their rates.

Trading, however, remains thin with many top players still on their holidays. Obviously, with volumes low the market is exceedingly vulnerable to swings in sentiment and a few bearish currents would have a disproportionate impact.

**EMI** and **Thorn** were the two major Footsie players – going in opposite directions. Thorn fell 19p to 391p, suffering from the expected profit taking. EMI, despite stripping out a 29p dividend, achieved what was calculated to be a 37.5p bounce to 1,460p. ABN Ambro Hoare Govett said sell Thorn: buy EMI.

**Hambros**, the merchant bank, jumped 14p to 256p, a 12 month high. The gain led to takeover speculation but it was claimed an institutional investor, seeking a significant investment stake, was behind the buying.

**Refuge**, the insurance group hoping to merge with United Friendly, managed a 13p gain to 394p, the first significant advance since the deal was announced. Unease is growing about the terms with some institutions convinced Refuge is being undervalued. Hopes the discontented could be capable of generating enough resistance to force an improvement in the Refuge slice of the combined cake prompted the rally.

**Zeneca** enjoyed an early burst, shooting above 1,500p for the first time. Renewed stories of a strike from the Swiss group Roche plus calculations the group's asset value is 1,912p a share caused the excitement. The shares settled at 1,490p, a 12p gain.

Stores were helped by the better-than-expected Argos results and oils scored from the Jordan flare-up.

**PizzaExpress**, the restaurant chain, held at 433p, a peak, as Janus Capital, the US fund which has built a significant stake in the JD Wetherspoon pubs chain, lifted its interest to 17.43 per cent.

**Union**, the financial group, was another unchanged – at 99p – on stake building. Melix Financial Services, related to Bahamas-based Joseph Lewis, has lifted its sharholding to 22.16 per cent. Mr Lewis' other main investment is a near 30 per cent interest in Christies International, the fine art auctioneer.

**Firecrest**, the internet business, had another eventful session, falling at one time to 35p. It closed at 43p, off 15p. The company needs to find new financial advisers and stockbrokers by early next month to protect its AIM listing.

**Michael Page**, the recruitment group, jumped 37p to 354p on results, dragging rival **Robert Walters** 18p to 148p. But **Colleagues**, a marketing group with two profit warnings in a fortnight, lost a further 14p to 105p.

**Glencar Exploration** was unchanged at 64p. It hopes to buy control of its Wassa gold-mining operation in Ghana which could lead to a cash call.

**TAKING STOCK**

**☐Wiggins, the property group, rose 0.25p to 9.25p, nudging its peak. It is expected to score from its international business park in Kent and its intriguing plans for the reclamation of contaminated land. But it is talk of a reverse take over which seems to be responsible for the recent strength of the shares. Wiggins management would take charge of the new group.**

**☐Cybertec, up 3p to 15p on Ofex, has fixed up a deal, said to be worth £4m, with Anglo Corporation to distribute its video telephones which are used with standard personal computers.**

**☐Walker Crips Weddle Beck, one of the biggest private client stockbrokers, is due to make its market debut on Thursday. Shares were offered at 70p.**

## Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items.
Other details: r Ex rights x Ex-dividend a Ex all u Unlisted Securities Market s Suspended pp Partly Paid pm Nil Paid Shares ‡ AIM Stock

Source: FT Information

## The Independent Index

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| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FT-SE 100 - Real-time | 00 | Sterling Rates | 04 | Privatisation Issues | 36 |
| UK Stock Market Report | 01 | Bullion Report | 00 | Water Shares | 39 |
| UK Company News | 02 | Wall St Report | 20 | Electricity Shares | 40 |
| Foreign Exchange | 03 | Tokyo Market | 21 | High Street Banks | 41 |

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*Calls cost 39p per minute (cheap rate), and 49p at all other times. Call charges include VAT*

## Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

| Stock | Vol'000 | Stock | Vol'000 | Stock | Vol'000 | Stock | Vol'000 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Thorn | 1260000 | BT | 670000 | Cookson | 450000 | Rolls Royce | 390000 |
| BAT Inds | 1130000 | SmKl Beecham | 550000 | Railtrack | 450000 | T&N | 370000 |
| Royal & Sun | 840000 | Cable & Wire | 500000 | BP | 430000 | Tesco | 360000 |
| BTR | 710000 | Hanson | 500000 | General Elect. | 400000 | Grand Met. | 350000 |
| Sears | 700000 | Lucas | 400000 | Vodafone | 390000 | Marks&Spencer | 330000 |

## FT-SE 100 Index hour by hour

Open 3877.1 up 4.2
09.00 3872.9 nc
10.00 3868.2 down 8.7
11.00 3865.0 down 7.9
12.00 3868.1 down 4.8
13.00 3869.4 down 3.5
14.00 3868.1 down 3.8
15.00 3866.8 down 6.1
16.00 3861.7 down 11.2
Close 3863.7 down 9.2

## Government Securities

# Land-Rover owners in revolt at quality defects

## The famed off-roader has now plunged to bottom of the reliability league tables as **Chris Godsmark** reports

Land-Rover owners are in revolt at a succession of "horrendous" quality defects on the four wheel drive vehicles which Rover's German owner, BMW, is said to have labelled a disgrace.

The catalogue of problems was highlighted in the latest influential US car quality survey by consultants JD Power, which placed Land-Rover bottom out of 37 manufacturers. BMW was said to have "gone ballistic" at the survey statistics and has drafted in extra engineers and quality controllers at the Solihull plant near Birmingham to sort matters out. Worst of all, the top of the range model, the £50,000 Range Rover, is gaining a reputation for unreliability.

Critics of Rover suggest this difficulties are part of a wider malaise. They come as BMW is grappling to turn the loss-making company round, pouring in £500m a year in investment. The Germans are said to be desperate not to suffer the same problems with Rover that Ford had when it acquired Jaguar.

Land-Rover dealers are understandably reluctant about speaking out at the quality problems, but the head of one dealership who did not want to be named, said: "I'm afraid we can only confirm the horrendous reliability problems. We're trying to be loyal because it is a British make, but it is not a good situation. The only bright thing about it is that it makes lots of after-sales warranty work for us sorting things out."

Warwick Banks, who runs a business modifying Land-Rovers, is one owner who has complained endlessly at the defects in his Discovery model. "There's no question about it. This is by far the worst vehicle I have ever had. It started with a noisy gearbox, but then I found the front suspension was lopsided and the car veered to the left all the time. The windscreen has fallen out three times and the car leaks oil constantly," he said.

The high profile Range Rover, launched in a blaze of publicity at the UK's most exclusive country house hotel, Cliveden, has been recalled twice in its short life, the first time because of suspected air conditioning faults, the second because of problems with the rear suspension.

One owner of a two year old Range Rover, who runs a manufacturing company in the Midlands, said: "This is the third Range Rover I've had and stupid things seem to go wrong constantly. The central locking plays up all the time, the front wheels seem to wobble when I go round bends, I don't think it's ever been in for a service without masses of warranty work. Worst of all, my 48,000 mile service cost £940. I had a Jeep before this and nothing went wrong with that at all.

One suggested cause of the reliability failings is complacency at Land-Rover itself. Quentin Wilson, from the BBC's Top Gear programme which helps to produce the UK version of the JD Power survey, explained: "Solihull has for far too long sat back and sat of its laurels. People just seem to shrug their shoulders about the quality problem, but owners are increasingly realising the situation is not specific to them."

Rover said it was disappointed at the JD Power survey, but does not agree that Land-Rover has a particular problem compared to other off road makes. "I wouldn't say there are more quality difficulties here than elsewhere," said a spokesman, "and we've got plenty of people addressing quality on a day to day basis."

For BMW, which saw Land-Rover as the jewel in the Rover crown when it bought the company almost three years ago, the reliability record is deeply embarrassing. For several weeks there have been reports that the German management now running Rover is not happy with many aspects of the way the company operates. Equally, British insiders at Rover say much the same thing about their German counterparts, claiming BMW makes agreements, only to break them the next day.

A more fundamental cause of the difficulties at Solihull appears to be the way managers there have coped with expansion. A recent report by brokers Salomon Brothers on the European motor industry said Rover had "some of the worst production economics in the industry."

Production is on course to have almost doubled in the past four years. In 1993 Land-Rover made 68,159 vehicles, by 1995 production had soared to 127,287. In the first seven months of 1996 it was up a further 6 per cent. The growth is not confined to the Discovery or new Range Rover. Even the traditional "workhorse" Land-Rover which launched the marque has seen dramatic sales increases – appealing to buyers who will probably never use them for off-road work. Yet according to Professor Garel Rhys OBE, from Cardiff Business School, Solihull still has vast spare capacity. For BMW, a question mark hangs over whether this can effectively be used.

Professor Rhys said: "BMW has clearly taken a great interest in Land-Rover and has apparently not liked everything it has seen. It has gradually been taking more and more control. The alarm bells have suddenly rung because there are just too many failings on Land-Rover vehicles."

Worryingly for BMW demand for four wheel drive vehicles, which rose so sharply during the late 1980s and early 1990s, appears to be tailing off. At the same time buyers are becoming more quality-conscious as the number of rivals from the US and the Far East, continues to grow.

Meanwhile investment at Solihull will run into hundreds of millions of pounds, some of it for a new body shop, but much of it being ploughed into quality control. Some dealers insist the quality picture is mixed, with customers still generally satisfied. But according to one, "at least when you're at the bottom of a survey like JD Power, the only way is up".

> 'At least when you're at the bottom, the only way to go is up'

**Range Rovers: Beset by increasing quality problems at Solihull** Photograph: UPPA

## Foreign Exchange Rates

| Country | Sterling Spot | 1 month | 3 months | Dollar Spot | 1 month | 3 months | D-Mark Spot |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| US | 15455 | 6-4 | 13-10 | 1000 | — | — | 06720 |
| Canada | 21235 | 11-3 | 50-37 | 13740 | 2-1 | 2-0 | 09233 |
| Germany | 23000 | 48-41 | 140-130 | 14882 | 28-24 | 84-81 | 10000 |
| France | 78676 | 132-118 | 365-334 | 50906 | 73-66 | 217-207 | 34206 |
| Italy | 23448 | 48-63 | 142-186 | 15172 | 44-51 | 123-135 | 101945 |
| Japan | 16684 | 75-70 | 225-218 | 10795 | 45-44 | 136-133 | 725373 |
| ECU | 12211 | 15-11 | 45-40 | 12657 | 7-8 | 23-25 | 05309 |
| Belgium | 47384 | 12-7 | 32-25 | 30660 | 6-5 | 18-16 | 206017 |
| Denmark | 88913 | 159-118 | 446-235 | 57530 | 85-65 | 270-220 | 38657 |
| Netherlands | 25791 | 65-57 | 187-174 | 16688 | 35-32 | 107-102 | 11214 |
| Ireland | 09626 | 7-3 | 20-14 | 16056 | 4-7 | 12-17 | 04185 |
| Norway | 99442 | 120-50 | 310-200 | 64343 | 42-17 | 110-60 | 43235 |
| Spain | 19465 | 21-31 | 69-86 | 12594 | 23-27 | 64-72 | 846291 |
| Sweden | 10250 | 0-6 | 1-9 | 66323 | 3-22 | 40-11 | 44566 |
| Switzerland | 18656 | 54-46 | 165-152 | 12071 | 37-34 | 113-107 | 08111 |
| Australia* | 19565 | 20-31 | 67-85 | 12658 | 19-21 | 54-56 | 08506 |
| Hong Kong | 11953 | 101-81 | 224-170 | 77338 | 2-12 | 15-35 | 51967 |
| Malaysia | 38524 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 24927 | 4-14 | 60-80 | 16750 |
| New Zealand* | 22414 | 43-57 | 133-156 | 14501 | 30-32 | 88-90 | 09744 |
| Saudi Arabia | 57963 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 37505 | 2-7 | 9-14 | 25202 |
| Singapore | 21782 | 0-0 | 0-0 | 14101 | 41-30 | 103-88 | 09475 |

## Other Spot Rates

| Country | Sterling | Dollar | Country | Sterling | Dollar |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Argentina | 15440 | 09987 | Nigeria | 123742 | 800400 |
| Austria | 163860 | 104730 | Oman | 05952 | 03850 |
| Brazil | 15666 | 10133 | Pakistan | 548745 | 354945 |
| China | 128420 | 83066 | Philippines | 405516 | 262300 |
| Egypt | 52569 | 34025 | Portugal | 235843 | 152600 |
| Finland | 69211 | 44768 | Qatar | 56253 | 36410 |
| Ghana | 259715 | 168100 | Russia | 820482 | 530700 |
| Greece | 367546 | 237740 | South Africa | 70621 | 45680 |
| India | 550199 | 356000 | Taiwan | 424949 | 274870 |
| Kuwait | 04635 | 02998 | UAE | 56786 | 36731 |

Forward rates quoted high to low are at a discount: subtract from spot rate

rate quoted low to high are at a premium: add to spot rate

*Dollar rates quoted as reciprocals.

For the latest foreign exchange rates call 0891 123 3033.

Calls cost 36p per minute (cheap rate) 48p other times.

## Interest Rates

| UK | | Germany | | US | | Japan | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Base | 5.75% | Discount | 2.50% | Prime | 8.75% | Discount | 0.50% |
| France | | Lombard | 4.50% | Discount | 5.00% | Belgium | |
| Intervention | 3.55% | Canada | | Fed Funds | 5.25% | Discount | 2.50% |
| Italy | | Prime | 7.00% | Spain | | Central | 3.30% |
| Discount | 8.25% | Discount | 5.00% | 10-Day Repo | 7.25% | Switzerland | |
| Netherlands | | Denmark | | Sweden | | Discount | 1.50% |
| Advances | 2.60% | Discount | 3.25% | Repo (Ave) | 5.90% | Lombard | 4.225% |

## Bond Yields*

HSBC Markets Research

| Country | 5yr | yield % | 10yr | yield % | Country | 5yr | yield % | 10yr | yield % |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| UK | 7†% | 717 | 7½% | 726 | Netherlands | 8½% | 517 | 8†% | 619 |
| US | 6½% | 633 | 6.9% | 656 | Spain | 10.10% | 815 | 10.15% | 892 |
| Japan | 5.5†% | 253 | 3†% | 314 | Italy | 9½% | 680 | 9½% | 951 |
| Australia | 6¾% | 757 | 10% | 791 | Belgium | 5% | 535 | 7% | 658 |
| Germany | 5.38†% | 519 | 6.25†% | 625 | Sweden | 13% | 727 | 6% | 805 |
| France | 5¾% | 542 | 7.25% | 632 | ECU OAT | 6% | 582 | 7¼% | 676 |

Yields calculated on local basis. †new benchmark

## Money Market Rates

| | O'Night | 7 Day | 1 Month | 3 | 6 Months | 1 Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Interbank | 4 6 | 5½ 5¾ | 5¹¹⁄₁₆ 5¹³⁄₁₆ | 5¾ 5⅞ | 5¹³⁄₁₆ 5¹⁵⁄₁₆ | 6 6⅛ |
| Sterling CDs | - | - | 5¾ | 5¾ | 5¹³⁄₁₆ | 5³¹⁄₃₂ |
| Local Authority Deps | 5¾ | 5¹¹⁄₁₆ | 5²³⁄₃₂ | 5²³⁄₃₂ | 5¾ | 6 |
| Discount Market Deps | 5¾ | 5¾ | - | - | - | - |
| Treasury Bills (Buy) | - | - | 5²¹⁄₃₂ | 5¾ | - | - |
| Dollar CDs | - | - | 509 | 516 | 526 | 549 |
| ECU Linked Dep | - - | - - | 4¹⁹⁄₃₂ 4²¹⁄₃₂ | 4¹⁹⁄₃₂ 4²¹⁄₃₂ | 4¹⁹⁄₃₂ 4²¹⁄₃₂ | 4⅝ 4¾ |

## Tourist Rates

| £ Buys | | £ Buys | | £ Buys | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Australia(Dollars) | 19050 | France(Francs) | 78400 | New Zealand(Dollars) | 21825 |
| Austria(Schillings) | 157500 | Germany(Marks) | 22400 | Norway(Kroner) | 97200 |
| Belgium(Francs) | 460900 | Greece(Drachmae) | 3600000 | Portugal(Escudos) | 2305000 |
| Canada(Dollars) | 20760 | Hong Kong(Dollars) | 116700 | Spain(Pesetas) | 1890000 |
| Cyprus(Pounds) | 06920 | Ireland(Punts) | 09350 | Sweden(Kronor) | 101050 |
| Denmark(Kroner) | 87000 | Italy(Lira) | 23040000 | Switzerland(Francs) | 18090 |
| Holland(Guilders) | 25350 | Japan(Yen) | 1652500 | Turkey(Lira) | 1276900000 |
| Finland(Marks) | 68800 | Malta(Lira) | 05980 | United States(Dollars) | 15125 |

## Liffe Financial Futures

| Contract | | Settlement price | High for day | Low for day | EstConts traded | Open interest |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Long Gilt | (Sep 96) | 108-04 | 108-09 | 108-02 | 28785 | 19835 |
| German Bond | (Sep 96) | 9808 | 9829 | 9805 | 97750 | 245010 |
| J.G.Bond | (Sep 96) | 12085 | 12100 | 12080 | 3621 | 0 |
| Italian Bond | (Sep 96) | 11598 | 11675 | 11581 | 39878 | 61800 |
| 3M Sterling | (Sep 96) | 9422 | 9422 | 9420 | 4558 | 69427 |
| | (Dec 96) | 9417 | 9419 | 9415 | 6776 | 110675 |
| 3M Euroyen | (Dec 96) | 9917 | 9918 | 9917 | 295 | N/A |
| | (Mar 97) | 9895 | 9895 | 9895 | 20 | N/A |
| 3M Euromark | (Sep 96) | 9673 | 9674 | 9672 | 18242 | 170228 |
| | (Dec 96) | 9671 | 9674 | 9671 | 14404 | 239653 |
| E.C.U. | (Sep 96) | 9559 | 9562 | 9558 | 1932 | 9282 |
| | (Dec 96) | 9562 | 9562 | 9560 | 690 | 6158 |
| Euro SFr | (Sep 96) | 9770 | 9774 | 9764 | 2825 | 30183 |
| FT-SE 100 | (Sep 96) | 38790 | 38900 | 38710 | 5838 | 64131 |
| FT-SE 250 | (Sep 96) | 43680 | | | 0 | 3769 |
| Eurolira | (Sep 96) | 9139 | 9150 | 9128 | 12122 | 54947 |

## Liffe FT-SE Index Option

Settlement price: 3863.00 closing offer price

| Series | 3800 | 3850 | 3900 | 3950 | Call/Put Total/vols |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aug | 99/20 | 64/35 | 35/59 | 17/0 | .. |
| Sep | 121/38 | 88/56 | 58/77 | 37/106 | .. |
| Oct | 140/54 | 109/71 | 81/94 | 57/121 | .. |
| Nov | 170/72 | 137/90 | 107/112 | 83/138 | .. |

## Energy

| Brent Crude ($/barrel) IPE 5.30pm | | *chg | Yr ago | Gas oil ($/tonne) IPE | close | *chg | WTI | 6pm | Products† ($/tonne) Spot CIF NW Europe | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sep | 2065 | +037 | 1658 | Aug | 18850 | +200 | Oct | 2220 | Unleaded Gasoline | 215/218 |
| Oct | 2033 | +029 | 1656 | Sep | 18650 | +125 | Nov | 2160 | Heavy Fuel Oil | 88/90 |
| Nov | 1984 | +024 | 1653 | Oct | 18475 | +125 | Dec | 2105 | Naphtha | 91/93 |
| Vol 18,408 | | Index: 20.21 | | Vol: | 12,074 | | Jan | 2055 | EC Gasoil | 190/193 |

*since 5.30pm previous day. Year ago prices average for week. Source: ICIS-London Oil Reports †6pm prices

## Commodity Indices

GCSI Indices

| | Base date | +Spot | %chg Day | 31 Dec | %chg YTD | Year ago | %chg Yr |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Index | 1970=100 | 20138 | +155 | 20350 | -104 | 17530 | +1488 |
| Agricultural | 1970=100 | 26610 | -107 | 28175 | -556 | 24610 | +813 |
| Energy | 1983=100 | 7211 | +303 | 7131 | +112 | 5675 | +2707 |
| Indust'l Metals | 1977=100 | 16354 | -050 | 19332 | -1540 | 21548 | -2410 |
| Livestock | 1970=100 | 20032 | +177 | 18271 | +964 | 17135 | +1694 |
| Precious Metals | 1973=100 | 49271 | -016 | 48986 | +058 | 49448 | -036 |

Source: Goldman, Sachs & Co. GSCI is a trademark and servicemark of Goldman, Sachs & Co. †Close as of 16 Aug 1996

## Industrial Metals

London Metal Exchange

| | $/tonne Cash | 3 mths | Volume | LME Stocks | | chg |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Aluminium HG | 1451-2 | 1488-7 | 86185 | 924075 | + | 125 |
| Aluminium Alloy | 1247-62 | 1281-5 | 775 | 86020 | - | 440 |
| Copper A | 2000-3 | 1942-43 | 72302 | 242800 | - | 9100 |
| Lead | 820-1 | 819-20 | 9462 | 101700 | + | 975 |
| Nickel | 7030-40 | 7150-40 | 20209 | 35136 | + | 430 |
| Tin | 6090-5 | 6150-5 | 5010 | 10960 | + | 170 |
| Zinc | 10075-85 | 10345-65 | 27571 | 565050 | - | 2425 |

| Settlement Conversion exchange rates: | £/$ | $/Dm | $/¥ |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 15458 | 14887 | 10793 |

Stock volumes & change in tonnes as at Fri 16 August

## Precious Metals

Spink & Son

| pm fix /oz | $ | £ | Coins | $ | £ | | $ | £ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Platinum | 39825 | 25785 | Britannia | 403 | 261 | Krugrands | 378/388 | 245/252 |
| Palladium | 12400 | 8030 | Britannia.5 oz | 204 | 132 | Sovs | 88/94 | 57/61 |
| Silver spot | 50825 | 32865 | Britannia.25 oz | 103 | 67 | Nobles | 391/263 | 253/263 |
| Gold Bul'n | 38640 | 25003 | Britannia.10 oz | 51 | 33 | Maple Leaf | 388/403 | 251/261 |

## Agricultural

CMS

| Cocoa LCE | £/tonne | Coffee LCE | $/tonne | Barley LCE | £/tonne | Potatoes LCE | £/tonne | Potatoes APA | Gld/100kg |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sep | 1014 | Sep | 1677 | Sep | 8950 | Nov | 7250 | - | - |
| Dec | 1025 | Nov | 1657 | Nov | 10115 | Mar | 7500 | Feb | 23 |
| Mar | 1037 | Jan | 1615 | Jan | 10325 | Apr | 8200 | Apr | 17 |
| Vol: | 1,087 | Vol: | 2,370 | Vol: | 148 | Vol: | 72 | Vol: | 50 |

| White Sugar LCE | $/tonne | Freight LCE | $10/index pt | Wheat LCE | £/tonne | Corn CBOT | Cents/bushel Hi-Lo | Sett |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Oct | 35480 | Aug | 1129 | Sep | 10515 | Sept | 3655-3555 | 36300 |
| Dec | 34580 | Sep | 1205 | Nov | 10730 | Dec | 34100-33200 | 34050 |
| Mar | 34090 | Vol: | 165 | Jan | 10906 | Mar | 34825-33850 | 34800 |
| Vol | 1010 | Index | 1108 | Vol: | 989 | | | |

## Other Softs

| | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Nov | Maize (No3)** | $/tonne | 14150 | Nov/Jan | Soya Oil§ | FL/100kg | 9750 |
| Aug/Sep | Copra (†) | $/tonne | 55300 | Aug/Sep | Coconut Oil (†) | $/tonne | 77000 |
| Oct | Cotton (NY) | UScent/lb | 7225 | unq | Sunflower Oil§ | $/tonne | unq |
| Aug | Wool | Acent/kg | 74700 | Nov/Jan | Rapeseed Oil§ | FL/100kg | 9700 |
| Sep | Rubber* | Mcent/kg | 32150 | Aug/Sep | Groundnut Oil | $/tonne | 90000 |

Origin: §Dutch/EC - carry origin - †Philippines/Indonesia *Malaysia **N Europe Source: FT Information/Reuters

## Latest Unit Trust Prices

Key

| | |
|---|---|
| d | ex dividend |
| e | exit charge when units sold |
| buy | formerly 'offer' |
| sell | formerly 'bid' |
| x | Non SIB recognised funds |

Copies of the most recent managers' reports and scheme particulars are available from fund managers free on request

A more extensive list of Unit Trusts and Managed Funds, ranked by performance within each sector and including offer prices, is published in Saturday editions of the *Independent*

**YORK EBOR MEETING:** The opening day brings an opportunity for a hardy turf campaigner to establish a popular front

# Halling running for a second term at the top

**Richard Edmondson** on the Godolphin runner with International ambitions

Halling would make a poor politician. The chestnut who has already retained his Eclipse Stakes crown attempts to complete the double-double at York this afternoon with success in a second consecutive International Stakes. Yet it seems Godolphin's five-year-old has developed the vote-losing tendency of being remembered for his worst moments.

Halling, like Godolphin itself, has perhaps not received due recognition. When his name is brought up by those with beer froth on their upper lip it is inevitably linked with defeats at the hands of the American equine colossus, Cigar, both at the Breeders' Cup in New York last autumn and in this spring's Dubai World Cup.

It should be pointed out that both those reverses were on dirt, a surface which Godolphin now realise does not suit Halling. This should not detract from the horse, as the sport is replete with animals who can perform with much greater facility on either grass or dirt. Cigar himself was close to nondescript on turf, while a small example from this country is Clive Brittain's Mister Fire Eyes, who is rated 95 on his all-weather form but whose grass performances suggest he is a two stones and more inferior performer in that sphere.

Halling himself has won his last seven starts on turf and will be favourite this afternoon on the Knavesmire to extend that sequence. The opposition, which includes First Island, Bijou D'Inde and Grape Tree Road, will hardly be throwing petals in the chestnut's path to herald his coronation, but there is a feeling in the Halling camp that he will not surrender lightly. "It's an awful lot to ask of him, but he has been campaigned with this specially in mind," Simon Crisford, Godolphin's racing manager, said.

As long as he does not disgrace himself on the Knavesmire, Halling will then be asked to contest races such as the Champion Stakes and possibly the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe for his Arab owners.

That Godolphin achieve success should be no surprise. They hardly select animals from the milk depot. In addition, the blue-bedecked animals they gather receive the sort of winter pampering that the rich treat themselves to in St Moritz. What is arresting, however, is the frequency of triumphs within the organisation.

It was said last year that the nominal assistant, Jeremy Noseda, was the trainer in all but name and that Saeed Bin Suroor, the team's designated trainer, was little more than a good operator with a chammy on Sheikh Mohammed's fleet of vehicles. Noseda, though, has long since loaded up his truck and gone to California, and his replacement, Bill Mott's former assistant, Tom Albertrani, has done little to slow Godolphin's locomotion.

The pervading thought this season seems to be that Godolphin have somehow failed, but if they have descended from last year's achievements it was only because those results could never be replicated. "We had our campaign spearheaded last season by Lammtarra, who was a once-in-a-lifetime type of horse," Crisford said. "I have to say that following that we've been absolutely delighted with the way things have gone this year."

The scroll shows that Godolphin have collected five Group One titles this year via Halling (who won the Prix d'Ispahan in France as well as the Eclipse), Classic Cliche, Overbury and Mark Of Esteem, who delivered Classic success in the 2,000 Guineas. There have been several other Group winners such as Heart Lake and Charnwood Forest, the Queen Anne Stakes victor at Royal Ascot, horses who have contributed towards a 28 per cent strike-rate and a worldwide £1.8m in prize-money. Do not stay awake tonight with worries for Sheikh Mohammed.

Dubai's crown prince still considers the Godolphin experiment to be in its infancy, and fit and sleek horses from the Emirates will be arriving on these shores for many springs to come.

If there is to be a tinkering within the system it will come in the equine staffing of Godolphin. Sheikh Mohammed considers his finest moment in racing to be the Derby victory of Lammtarra, who was bred by his family in America and nurtured by his team in the Gulf. He would like to relive that cradle-to-podium experience. "We're concentrating more on home-bred yearlings now," Crisford said. "I'm sure we will buy a few horses, but certainly not in the numbers that we've bought previously."

A different policy may be on the way, but Halling should show at York today that the results remain the same.

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**
**NAP: Royal Court**
**(York 3.45)**
**NB: Marl**
**(York 4.15)**


Halling lets the bad memory of his dirt defeats wash over him
Photograph: Phil Smith/Sporting Life

## Tactics may decide 'race of the year'

"The best race of the year", is how Peter Chapple-Hyam yesterday described today's International Stakes, in which he sends out Spectrum to try and wrest the trophy from Halling.

Without a win since last year's Champion Stakes, Spectrum has shown signs at home that he is returning to form. "Spectrum is back to his best," Chapple-Hyam said, "but he will need to be, it looks the best race of the year.

"The horse will be suited by plenty of pace because he possibly needs a mile and a half now and if all goes well then he goes for the Arc."

In the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown last time it was Halling, closely followed throughout by Bijou D'Inde, who set the pace, but Bijou D'Inde's trainer, Mark Johnston, was guarded yesterday as to whether similar forcing tactics will be adopted today by his three-year-old who had been considered a doubtful stayer prior to the Eclipse.

"Jason [Weaver] will stop by after racing today to discuss how the race would suit our horse," Johnston said. "We don't plan tactics, we wait until the stalls open before deciding what's best, that's what jockeys are for."

The pace of the race will also be pertinent to the prospects of the improving First Island, whose greatest success came over a mile last time out in Goodwood's Sussex Stakes.

## Expection of Snow

Ante-post punters on the Ebor, who had a setback with the withdrawal of the fancied Celeric at the weekend, may still have something to cheer in tomorrow's race as Ambassador and Snow Princess, who had both been considered doubtful, are now likely to run.

The Barry Hills-trained Ambassador will have Willie Carson in the saddle, while Snow Princess's trainer, Lord Huntingdon, who had been worried that underfoot conditions would be too firm for the filly, walked the course yesterday and was pleased with what he found.

**EBOR HANDICAP Ladbrokes:** 4-1 Harbour Dues, 7-1 Beauchamp Jade, 8-1 Ambassador, 10-1 Snow Princess & Clerkenwell, 12-1 Better Offer, Corradini & Foundry Lane, 14-1 Top Cees, 16-1 Prussian Blue, Desert Frolic & Midnight Legend, 20-1 others

## YORK

**HYPERION**
2.05 In Command
2.35 WILAWANDER (nap)
3.10 Halling
3.45 Mons
4.15 Options Open
4.45 Grey Shot (nb)
5.15 Hawait

**GOING:** Good.
**STALLS:** 5f & 6f – far side; 7f – stands side; round course – inside.
**DRAW ADVANTAGE:** None.
■ Left-hand, U-shaped course. Flat and ideal for the powerful galloper.
■ Course is 1m S of city on A1036. York station 1m. **ADMISSION:** County Stand £32; Tattersalls £16; Silver Ring £5 (OAPs £2.50); Course Enclosure £3 (OAPs £1.50). Under-16s free all enclosures. Under-12s not admitted to County Stand. **CAR PARK:** £2, remainder free.

**SIS**

■ **LEADING TRAINERS WITH RUNNERS: H Cecil** — 27 winners from 98 runners gives a success ratio of 27.6% and a loss to a £1 level stake of £5.96; **J Gosden** — 20 winners, 108 runners, 21.1%, -£0.41, **M Stoute** — 23 winners, 128 runners, 18.1%, +£4.65; **P Cole** — 18 winners, 87 runners, 20.7%, +£0.40.
■ **LEADING JOCKEYS: Pat Eddery** — 41 winners, 210 rides, 19.5%, +£1.74; **L Dettori** — 40 winners, 172 rides, 23.7%, +£41.08; **W Carson** — 30 winners, 213 rides, 16.0%, -£35.70; **W R Swinburn** — 19 winners, 148 rides, 12.8%, -£7.87.
**BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Bowled Over** (visored) (2.35); **Malteamia** (visored), **Silent Expression** (4.15).
**WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS:** None.
**LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Jazz King** (2.35) & **Golden Pound** (4.15) have been sent 276 miles by Miss G Kelleway from Whitcombe, Dorset.

### 2.05 DEPLOY ACOMB CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS B) £20,000 added 2YO 7f Penalty Value £13,488 C4

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 1 | IN COMMAND (20) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) B Hills 9 0 | M Hills 3 |
| 2 | 1 | REVOQUE (24) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 9 0 | J Reid 7 |
| 3 | 41 | SHADOW LEAD (26) (H C Chung) L Cumani 9 0 | L Dettori 5 |
| 4 | 6 | DRIVE ASSURED (60) (Peter A Head) C Brittain 8 10 | B Doyle 4 |
| 5 | | GET THE POINT (J E Egg) R Hollinshead 8 10 | M J Kinane 1 |
| 6 | 55 | OUT OF SIGHT (15) (D J Allen) B McMahon 8 10 | G Carter 8 |
| 7 | 3 | SYMONDS INN (12) (Marquesa de Moratalla) J FitzGerald 8 10 | K Fallon 2 |

– 7 declared –

**BETTING:** 11-10 In Command, 5-2 Revoque, 9-2 Shadow Lead, 8-1 Symonds Inn, 12-1 Out Of Sight, 14-1 Drive Assured, 20-1 Get The Point
1995: Bijou D'Inde 2 8 10 D Holland 11-4 (M Johnston) 6 ran

**FORM GUIDE**

**IN COMMAND** made his first racecourse appearance Goodwood (6f) three weeks ago. Held for a late run, this fine-looking son of Sadler's Wells asserted his superiority entering the final furlong and, running on strongly, got home by half a length from Mile High, the pair five lengths clear of Orontes (winner since). In Command, closely related to Lyric Fantasy and half-brother to several winners among them Royal Applause (unbeaten in four starts last term, including the Gimcrack and Middle Park) is definitely one to follow and, with the extra furlong bound to suit him, will take plenty of beating today. **Revoque** also comes here the winner of his single start so far, running on strongly to beat Shii-Take half a length at Ascot (6f) last month with a five-length gap back to the third. Peter Chapple-Hyam's colt, who was easy to back at Ascot, will also progress and appreciate the seventh furlong. He is the one In Command has to beat. Pick of the others appears to be **Shadow Lead**, though he accounted for little of note when 2-1 on at Chepstow and is up against two more than useful types in the selection and Revoque here. **Selection:** IN COMMAND

### 2.35 MELROSE RATED HANDICAP (CLASS B) £25,000 added 3YO 1m 6f Penalty Value £16,657 C4

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 0124 | YOM JAMEEL (72) (Sheikh Ahmed Al Maktoum) M Stoute 9 7 | W R Swinburn 6 |
| 2 | 4-42241 | WILAWANDER (27) (D) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) B Hills 9 7 | M Hills 5 |
| 3 | 2-02120 | PRIVATE SONG (USA) (51) (K Abdullah) R Charlton 9 7 | Pat Eddery 7 |
| 4 | 3212-60 | WARBROOK (61) (J C Smith) I Balding 8 12 | T Quinn 2 |
| 5 | 5-321 | FANCY HEIGHTS (10) (D) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) Lady Herries 8 9 | J Reid 9 |
| 6 | 623322 | MENTAL PRESSURE (19) (P D Savill) Mrs M Reveley 8 8 | K Darley 3 |
| 7 | 033135 | BOWLED OVER (45) (C) (R M Cyzer) C Cyzer 8 8 | K Fallon 1 V |
| 8 | 06511 | BERLIN BLUE (30) (Sheikh Mohammed) J W Watts 8 7 | L Dettori 10 |
| 9 | 0-51 | LIEFLING (USA) (18) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 8 4 | J Carroll 4 |
| 10 | 134 | JAZZ KING (19) (Whitcombe Manor Racing) Miss G Kelleway 8 4 | W Carson 8 |

– 10 declared –

*Minimum weight: 8st 4lb. True handicap weights: Liefling 8st 3lb, Jazz King 8st 2lb.*
**BETTING:** 7-2 Private Song, 4-1 Berlin Blue, 11-2 Wilawander, 6-1 Liefling, 8-1 Fancy Heights, Jazz King, 9-1 Yom Jameel, 16-1 Mental Pressure, 16-1 Bowled Over, Warbrook
**1995:** Saleel 3 8 12 M Roberts 4-1 (A Stewart) 5 ran

**FORM GUIDE**

**PRIVATE SONG** did a good job as pacemaker for Dushyantor in the Irish Derby and in the end finished little more than two lengths behind that colt in eighth of 13. Roger Charlton's runner, winner of a Bath maiden in May, ran a fine race in defeat in the King George V Handicap at Royal Ascot, making the running until caught close home and going down half a length to Samraan with the Ebor favourite, Harbour Dues (who was desperately unlucky in running), two lengths back in third. This first attempt at the trip should suit the US-bred admirably and he is taken to score from **Berlin Blue** and **Liefling**. Berlin Blue, unraced last term, has landed the last two of five starts, at Ripon (1m 4f) and at Ayr (1m 7f). He is 5lb worse off with **Mental Pressure**, the half-length Ripon runner-up, but has got better since and can confirm form with this rival who was was second for the fourth time this season when beaten a length and threequarters by Benatom at the big Goodwood meeting. **Fancy Heights**, who struck form at Haydock when tackling today's trip for the first time, is the type who can improve further, as is Catterick winner **Wilawander** while **Bowled Over**, a course winner at a mile and a half, is in first-time blinkers. **Selection:** PRIVATE SONG

### 3.10 JUDDMONTE INTERNATIONAL STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 1) £200,000 added 1m 2f 85yds Penalty Value £165,548 C4

| | | | | RATINGS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 135111 | FIRST ISLAND (20) (C) (D) (Mollers Racing) G Wragg 4 9 5 | M Hills 4 | 126 |
| 2 | 10-1011 | HALLING (USA) (45) (CD) (Godolphin) Saeed bin Suroor 5 9 5 | L Dettori 1 | 126 |
| 3 | 5-42406 | PUNISHMENT (42) (D) (A J Richards) C Brittain 5 9 5 | B Doyle 2 | 107 |
| 4 | 1021-43 | SPECTRUM (94) (D) (BF) (Lord Weinstock) P Chapple-Hyam 4 9 5 | J Reid 6 | 120 |
| 5 | 15-3412 | BIJOU D'INDE (45) (C) (J S Morrison) M Johnston 3 8 11 | J Weaver 5 | 126 |
| 6 | 15-4101 | GRAPE TREE ROAD (58) (D) (M Tabor) A Fabre (Fr) 3 8 11 | T Jarnet 3 | 120 |

– 6 declared –

**BETTING:** 13-8 Halling, 9-4 First Island, 7-2 Bijou d'Inde, 6-1 Spectrum, 9-1 Grape Tree Road, 100-1 Punishment
1995: Halling 4 9 6 W R Swinburn 9-4 (Saeed bin Suroor) 6 ran

**FORM GUIDE**

**HALLING**, who pulled off the Eclipse–International Stakes double in 1995, winning this by three and a half lengths, only scraped home in last month's Sandown showpiece but he still looks all set to complete the notable double for a second time. The handsome five-year-old mastered **Bijou D'Inde** by a neck, continuing to find more when challenged. Bijou D'Inde did well to run the selection so close considering it was touch and go whether or not he would be allowed to take his chance on the good to soft ground. Pentire, the highly impressive King George victor, finished a length and threequarters adrift of Bijou D'Inde in third. Bijou D'Inde is 3lb worse in with Halling here but, as a three-year-old, should have progressed a bit since. Now that he has shown he stays the trip, and on the better ground, Mark Johnston's colt is likely to make the running today, just as he did so successfully when regaining the lead near the post to pip Ashkalani a head in the St James's Palace at Royal Ascot. It was in the opener on this card a year ago that he opened his account at the third time of asking and he can once again prove Halling's toughest rival. The Pentire team of Mollers Racing, Geoff Wragg and Michael Hills is represented by **First Island** (Pentire's work-partner), who has shown much improved form this season and is in great heart having completed a hat-trick when landing the Sussex Stakes at Goodwood coming from last to defeat hotpot Charnwood Forest a head. Before that, First Island took the Prince of Wales's Stakes at Royal Ascot by a length and a quarter from Montjoy and, with his telling tale of foot, the Dominion colt could run Halling and Bijou D'Inde pretty close. John Reid, who deputised for Frankie Dettori on Halling in the Eclipse, as usual, rides Spectrum, another who has a fine turn of finishing speed and he won the Irish 2,000 Guineas and the Champion Stakes in 1995. The son of Rainbow Quest has lacked sparkle in his two starts so far this season but probably needed the outing when unplaced at Longchamp on his return the ground was against him last time when third to Soviet Line in the Lockinge Stakes. **Spectrum** represents Peter Chapple-Hyam and Robert Sangster, successful with Rodrigo Di Triano (1992), and he will not be far away if back to his best. The French, successful with Dahlia (1974) and Triptych (1987), are represented by **Grape Tree Road**, who inched out Dante winner and Derby fourth Glory Of Dancer in the Grand Prix De Paris at Longchamp. He has a bit to find here, however. **Selection:** HALLING

### 3.45 GREAT VOLTIGEUR STAKES (CLASS A) (Group 2) £60,000 3YO 1m 4f Penalty Value £48,451 C4

| | | | | RATINGS |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6-52341 | DANKESTON (USA) (30) (Luciano Gaucci) M Bell 8 9 | W Carson 4 | 107 |
| 2 | 1-1224 | DUSHYANTOR (USA) (51) (D) (K Abdullah) H Cecil 8 9 | Pat Eddery 2 | 116 |
| 3 | 1212-20 | EVEN TOP (73) (B Schmidt-Bodner) M Tompkins 8 9 | P Robinson 1 | 117 |
| 4 | 1166 | FARASAN (24) (Prince A A Faisal) H Cecil 8 9 | K Fallon 3 | 108 |
| 5 | 2113-34 | MONS (21) (Mrs E H Vestey) L Cumani 8 9 | L Dettori 5 | 108 |
| 6 | 11 | ROYAL COURT (45) (D) (R E Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 8 9 | J Reid 6 | 118 |

– 6 declared –

**BETTING:** 5-2 Dushyantor, 11-4 Even Top, 7-2 Royal Court, 6-1 Farasan, 13-2 Mons, 12-1 Dankeston.
**1995:** Pentire 3 8 12 M Hills 4-5 (G Wragg) 4 ran

**FORM GUIDE**

This has proved a useful guide to the St Leger over the years and of the sextet under orders here only **Dushyantor** and **Mons** are entered for the season's final classic. Dushyantor, half-brother to Commander In Chief and Warning, lacks the pace of that pair. Runner-up to Glory Of Dancer in the slowly run Dante here in May after winning a little race at Newmarket, he did well to finish a length-and-a-quarter second to Shaamit in the Derby after running into all sorts of trouble. He failed to show much zip when a strongly fancied for the Irish Derby but might not have recovered from his hard race at Epsom. If that was the case, Dushyantor might well win here, though **EVEN TOP** is just preferred. He goes for this instead of the International. Even Top, who scored twice last term, was short-headed by Mark Of Esteem on his reappearance in the 2,000 Guineas, with Bijou D'Inde third, and was the form choice for the Derby. But he failed to act on the course and was only 13th, being hampered early and again five furlongs out and returning with a gash on a back leg. That effort is best forgotten and Even Top can come good again here. **Mons**, winner of three of his five races as a juvenile including the Royal Lodge by five lengths and placed in the other two, was racing for the first time since April when staying on into fourth behind St Mawes in the Gordon Stakes at Goodwood, beaten less than a length and he will progress for the run. **Royal Court** has a 100 per cent record after two races, slamming Derby third Shantou more than three lengths at Haydock. Henry Cecil, trainer of Dushyantor, won this three times in the eighties and also runs **Farasan**, who looked good when winning by eight lengths at Doncaster and ran well in the Grand Prix De Paris but was beaten out of sight in the King George.
**Selection:** EVEN TOP

### 4.15 EAGLE LANE HANDICAP (CLASS C) £17,500 added 6f Penalty Value £14,840 C4

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 461104 | CYRANO'S LAD (5) (CD) (M M Foulger) C Dwyer 7 9 10 | W R Swinburn 16 |
| 2 | 16-5304 | APRIL THE EIGHTH (47) (D) (Michael Sail) B Hills 3 9 9 | M Hills 10 |
| 3 | 145221 | DOUBLE SPLENDOUR (38) (CD) (Yorkshire Racing Club) P Felgate 6 9 6 | K Darley 18 |
| 4 | 61-0312 | DOUBLE BOUNCE (17) (CD) (BF) (Mrs P Scott-Dunn) P Makin 6 9 5 | L Dettori 7 |
| 5 | 0/0460- | SNIPE HALL (462) (D) (Mrs R T Watson) T Watson 5 9 4 | D Pears (3) 2 |
| 6 | 020-156 | SEIGNEURIAL (94) (D) (The PBT Group) G Harwood 4 9 3 | A Clark 9 |
| 7 | 450032 | OPTIONS OPEN (3) (C) (D) (Jonathan Ramsden) Mrs J Ramsden 4 9 2 | K Fallon 17 |
| 8 | 0-00000 | SAINT EXPRESS (15) (C) (D) (D G Hall) Mrs M Reveley 6 9 1 | A Culhane 14 |
| 9 | 205460 | MARL (25) (Sir Eric Parker) R Akehurst 3 8 13 | T Quinn 20 |
| 10 | 302122 | TILER (15) (CD) (BF) (Mrs C Robinson) M Johnston 4 8 12 | J Weaver 21 |
| 11 | 031523 | GOLDEN POUND (USA) (11) (D) (BF) (A P Griffin) Miss G Kelleway 4 8 12 | Pat Eddery 11 |
| 12 | 203321 | BENZOE (18) (CD) (Tony Fawcett) Mrs J Ramsden 6 8 11 | J Fortune 13 |
| 13 | 663345 | SILENT EXPRESSION (10) (D) (BF) (A G Reid) B Meehan 6 8 10 | M J Kinane 8 B |
| 14 | 120150 | BOLLIN HARRY (10) (D) (Sir Neil Westbrook) T Easterby 4 8 8 | M Birch 22 |
| 15 | 000011 | LORD OLIVIER (11) (D) (Miss V R Jarvis) W Jarvis 6 8 7 | J Reid 4 |
| 16 | 020130 | MISTER JOLSON (20) (D) (Bob Froome) R Hodges 7 8 4 | S Drowne 19 |
| 17 | 602122 | NO MONKEY NUTS (12) (CD) (BF) (The Monkey Partnership) J Berry 3 8 4 | J Carroll 8 |
| 18 | 402121 | ROYAL DOME (10) (C) (G W Jones) M Wane 4 8 3 | G Carter 15 |
| 19 | 423214 | BAYIN (USA) (18) (D) (Trevor Barker) M Usher 7 8 3 | R Street 12 |
| 20 | 014254 | STUFFED (52) (D) (Early Morning Breakfast Syndicate) M W Easterby 4 8 0 | Dale Gibson 5 |
| 21 | 112122 | MALTEAMIA (43) (D) (BF) (Mrs Zoe Grant) S R Bowring 3 7 12 | J Quinn 3 V |
| 22 | 204140 | THE WAD (6) (D) (W J Kelly) D Nicholls 3 7 10 | L Charnock 1 |

– 22 declared –

*Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: The Wad 7st 9lb.*
**BETTING:** 11-2 Double Bounce, 6-1 Double Splendour, 10-1 Options Open, 11-1 Tiler, 12-1 Golden Pound, Lord Olivier, 14-1 Cyrano's Lad, Benzoe, 16-1 Royal Dome, 18-1 Bayin, 20-1 Marl, Mister Jolson, Silent Expression, Stuffed, 25-1 April The Eighth, Bollin Harry, Seigneurial, 33-1 Saint Express, Malteamia, No Monkey Nuts, The Wad, 66-1 Snipe Hall.
**1995:** Tiler 3 8 5 D Holland 20-1 (M Johnston) 20 ran

**FORM GUIDE**

Apart from Coastal Bluff in the Stewards' Cup, there hasn't been a more impressive sprint handicap winner this season than **DOUBLE SPLENDOUR** when he came home by three lengths and threequarters of a length from subsequent scorers **Bayin** and **Benzoe** in a field of 18 here last month, with recent Ripon Great St Wilfrid winner Samwar fourth. Double Splendour led on the bit approaching the furlong pole and drew clean away. Paul Felgate's charge has been raised 10lb for that but should again take care of the other pair. And, although he is 5lb worse off, he can reverse earlier form with **Double Bounce**, who beat him a neck at Newcastle with Bayin and **Stuffed** third and fourth of 13. Double Bounce went on to finish a three-length second of 30 in the Stewards' Cup, staying on at the finish, with **Cyrano's Lad** only 29th but a course and distance winner and successful at Chester in June. **Royal Dome**, 20-1 winner of the 21-runner Coral Handicap at Haydock, hat-trick seeker **Lord Olivier**, recent Ripon runner-up **Options Open** and **Tiler**, who has been running well lately, are others to consider.
**Selection:** DOUBLE SPLENDOUR

### 4.45 LONSDALE STAKES (CLASS A) (Listed) £30,000 added 2m Penalty Value £19,014

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 11-2451 | GREY SHOT (19) (D) (J C Smith) I Balding 4 9 8 | L Dettori 2 |
| 2 | 3-01211 | CELERIC (38) (C) (D) (Christopher Spence) D Morley 4 9 4 | W Carson 7 |
| 3 | 532-334 | ALWAYS ALOOF (USA) (61) (D) (S Hanson) M Stoute 5 9 1 | M J Kinane 4 |
| 4 | 010360- | ANCHOR CLEVER (324) (Osvaldo Pedroni) P Kelleway 4 9 1 | J Reid 5 |
| 5 | 166-253 | LATAHAAB (USA) (38) (D) (Ascot Racing Partnership) R Akehurst 5 9 1 | T Quinn 8 |
| 6 | 14-1654 | SANMARTINO (18) (C) (K Abdullah) B Hills 4 9 1 | M Hills 1 |
| 7 | 154011 | BENATOM (USA) (19) (D) (T F Harris) H Cecil 3 8 1 | A McGlone 3 |

– 7 declared –

**BETTING:** 9-4 Grey Shot, 3-1 Always Aloof, 7-2 Celeric, 5-1 Anchor Clever, 8-1 Sanmartino, 11-1 Benatom, 16-1 Latahaab
**1995:** Double Eclipse 3 8 0 T Williams 10-11 (M Johnston) 8 ran

**FORM GUIDE**

**Celeric** misses tomorrow's Ebor for this and he has scored three times here over the Ebor trip of a mile and six furlongs. He has no trouble staying two miles and justified favouritism over the distance in the Northumberland Plate the time before last but whether he can cope with **GREY SHOT** at a difference of only 4lb is another matter. Grey Shot, with Pat Eddery deputising for Frankie Dettori, made all in the Goodwood Cup, the 10-times champion getting the last ounce out of his most willing partner to defeat Lear Jet a head in a tremendous finish – the pair more than three lengths clear of market leader Persian Punch. **Always Aloof**, seven lengths adrift of Grey Shot when the selection ran Double Trigger to a head in the Sagaro Stakes at Ascot in May, is 7lb better off and he followed with a third to Double Eclipse at Longchamp and six-length fourth to Classic Cliche in the Gold Cup.
**Selection:** GREY SHOT

### 5.15 EGLINTON NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS C) £15,000 added 2YO 7f Penalty Value £11,550

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 502143 | BOLERO BOY (62) (Sheriff Racing) M W Easterby 9 7 | L Dettori 1 |
| 2 | 431 | HAWAIT (16) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) B Hills 9 1 | M Hills 11 |
| 3 | 522 | SHOUMATARA (USA) (16) (BF) (Maktoum Al Maktoum) M Stoute 8 9 | J Reid 9 |
| 4 | 412 | DEMOLITION MAN (17) (Mrs Kim Fritz) J W Watts 8 8 | K Darley 7 |
| 5 | 401 | ZUGUDI (30) (Sheik Ahmad Yousuf Al Sabah) B Hanbury 8 6 | M J Kinane 3 |
| 6 | 061 | DICKIE BIRD (16) (D) (George E K Teo) R Hannon 8 6 | Pat Eddery 12 |
| 7 | 3515 | BURLINGTON HOUSE (USA) (73) (Richard Green Fine Paintings) P Cole 8 1 | G Carter 5 |
| 8 | 062515 | NINTH SYMPHONY (11) (D) (S A B Dinsmore) P Haslam 7 12 | W Carson 4 |
| 9 | 441 | CHEROKEE FLIGHT (25) (P A Leonard) Mrs J Ramsden 7 12 | J F Egan 6 |
| 10 | 20521 | CHARLTON SPRING (8) (R J Hodges) R Hodges 7 11 (6ex) | J Quinn 2 |
| 11 | 05013 | PENSION FUND (8) (Stephen J Curtis) M W Easterby 7 10 | Dale Gibson 10 |
| 12 | 604114 | ENCHANTING EVE (49) (Mrs J Williams) C Allen 7 10 | Martin Dwyer (5) 8 |

– 12 declared –

*Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Enchanting Eve 7st 2lb.*
**BETTING:** 4-1 Hawait, 9-2 Demolition Man, 5-1 Dickie Bird, 7-1 Shoumatara, 8-1 Cherokee Flight, 10-1 Bolero Boy, 11-1 Zugudi, 12-1 Burlington House, 14-1 Charlton Spring, Ninth Symphony, 16-1 others
**1995:** Evening Chime 2 8 3 K Fallon 12-1 (Mrs J Ramsden) 15 ran

**FORM GUIDE**

A fair fourth behind **Bolero Boy** on his debut at Newcastle (5f) in May, **DEMOLITION MAN** has improved since being stepped up a furlong in distance, winning at Haydock and chasing home Super Sprint winner Miss Stamper at Newmarket. Going up an additional furlong will suit Bill Watts' colt even better here and, with a 13lb advantage, he should turn around the Newcastle running with Bolero Boy. Demolition Man might have most to fear from **Dickie Bird**, who made it third time lucky when tackling today's trip for the first time and going in at Goodwood (maiden). **Hawait**, **Zugudi**, **Cherokee Flight** and **Charlton Spring** are others who got off the mark on their most recent runs and must also go on the shortlist.
**Selection:** DEMOLITION MAN

## HYPERION'S TV TIPS

**YORK**

**2.05: IN COMMAND'S** home reputation ensured he was a short-priced favourite on his debut at Goodwood three weeks ago and he had only to be pushed out to land some hefty bets. The danger is **Revoque**, who beat Shii-Take at Ascot. The form of that success was bolstered when the latter was again runner-up to the useful Monza at Newbury on Saturday.

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**2.35: Private Song** performed with credit when on pace-making duties at the Curragh last time. A long-striding colt, he is likely to force the pace again on this galloping track and will prove difficult to beat. The one capable of catching him is **WILAWANDER**, whose facile win against weak opposition last time proved nothing. But Barry Hills has always maintained that this colt would develop into a very decent three-year-old and now has the opportunity to prove that. The Nashwan colt had also been entered in this afternoon's Lonsdale Stakes and in tomorrow's Ebor Handicap.

☐☐☐

**3.10: HALLING** may well hold off the opposition here but is at poor odds to do so. Probably, then, a race to observe rather than one in which to have a bet. **Bijou D'Inde** was only a neck behind Halling in the Eclipse and will again make a fight of it. **First Island** won the Sussex Stakes over a mile at Goodwood but is equally effective at this distance. He has shown marked improvement this season and finishes well off a strong pace. Much will be decided by Frankie Dettori's tactics on the favourite.

**3.45:** Finding the best value here could be by looking beyond **Dushyantor** and **Even Top**. The latter has had training problems while the Henry Cecil-trained colt flopped in the Irish Derby. **Royal Court** is unbeaten in two runs and looks very smart indeed. Any easing in the ground would certainly be to his advantage. But if the threatened heavy rain were to arrive in time, **MONS** would be the one. Given slower conditions, Luca Cumani believes last year's Royal Lodge winner will recapture that fine two-year-old form.

☐☐☐

**4.15: Royal Dome** made up a lot of late ground to win at Haydock 10 days ago but a 5lb penalty could put this prize just beyond him. **OPTIONS OPEN**, in contrast, looks well handicapped after his excellent second to Samwar in a competitive event at Ripon on Saturday. His best distance is probably further than this six furlongs but a fierce pace is assured on the stands' side today by the likes of **Tiler** and **Cyrano's Lad** and that will suit Kieren Fallon's mount, drawn in stall 17. In the middle of the track, **Bayin** can be expected to deliver a late challenge. **Marl** was below form at Ascot last time but could do better on this track.

### INTERNATIONAL STAKES – 10-YEAR-TALE

| | 1986 | 87 | 88 | 89 | 90 | 91 | 92 | 93 | 94 | 95 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fate of the favourites: | 1 | 1 | 5 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 12 | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Winner's place in betting: | 1 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 1 |
| Starting prices: | 13-8 | 13-8 | 7-2 | 16-1 | 4-1 | 16-1 | 8-1 | 28-1 | 4-1 | 9-4 |

Profit or loss to £1 stake: Favourites –£1.51. Second Favourites –£10.00
Percentage of winners placed 1st, 2nd or 3rd in last race: 50%
Shortest-priced winners: Shardari (1986), Triptych (1987) both 13-8
Longest-priced winner: Ezzoud (1993) 28-1
Top trainer: M Stoute – Shardari (1986), Ezzoud (1993 & 1994)
Top jockey: W R Swinburn – Shardari (1986), Ezzoud (1993 & 1994); Halling (1995)

## RACING RESULTS

### HAMILTON

**2.15: 1. ANOTHER NIGHTMARE** (K Sked) 8-1; **2. Naissant** 66-1; **3. Leading Princess** 8-1. **11 ran.** 7-2 fav Ultra Beet (4th). 4, sht-hd. (R McKellar, Lesmahagow). **Tote:** £7.30; £2.60, £8.40, £3.70. DF: £150.90. CSF: £225.82. Tricast: £2,980.38. Trio: £185.50.

**2.45: 1. MYSTIC TIMES** (J Quinn) 14-1; **2. Never So True** 14-1; **3. Moofaji** 50-1. **13 ran.** 5-1 fav Zahran (6th). 1¼, 2. (B Mactaggart, Hawick). **Tote:** £40.70; £8.20, £4.30, £9.30. DF: £236.50. CSF: £173.60. Tricast: £8,345.35. Trio: Not won.

**3.15: 1. SOOTY TERN** (J Weaver) 7-1; **2. King Curan** 7-1; **3. Impulsive Air** 4-1 fav. **9 ran.** 3, 8. (J M Bradley, Chepstow). **Tote:** £10.80; £2.70, £3.90, £1.10. DF: £25.20. CSF: £47.09. Tricast: £180.62. Trio: £59.40.

**3.45: 1. ALL IS FAIR** (G Duffield) 5-2; **2. Dazzling Stone** 2-1; **3. Pericles** 13-8 fav. **5 ran.** ¾, 2. (Sir Mark Prescott, Newmarket). **Tote:** £2.80; £1.10, £1.40. DF: £2.20. CSF: £7.34.

**4.15: 1. CONTRAVENE** (J Carroll) 14-1; **2. I'm Still Here** 16-1; **3. Lycius Touch** 12-1. **8 ran.** 9-4 jt-favs Abstone Queen (4th), Jingoist (5th). 1¾, sht-hd. (J Berry, Cockerham). **Tote:** £11.70; £3.20, £3.00, £2.70. DF: £20.00. CSF: £166.41.

**4.45: 1. MENTALASANYTHIN** (A Mackay) 7-4 fav; **2. Lord Advocate** 25-1; **3. China Castle** 4-1. **8 ran.** 2½, ½. (D Haydn Jones, Pontypridd). **Tote:** £2.10; £1.30, £3.10, £1.50. DF: £10.80. CSF: £33.22. Tricast: £128.09. After a stewards' inquiry, placings unaltered.
**Placepot:** £2,100.90. **Quadpot:** £25.20.
**Place 6:** £3,864.82. **Place 5:** £883.01.

### WINDSOR

**2.30: 1. TURNING WHEEL** (Pat Eddery) 1-3 fav; **2. Multicoloured** 9-2; **3. Mount Pleasant** 20-1. **15 ran.** 5, 3. (H Cecil, Newmarket). **Tote:** £1.40; £1.10, £1.80, £2.90. DF: £3.10. CSF: £2.94. Trio: £13.30.

**3.00: 1. PRESENT ARMS** (T Quinn) 7-2; **2. Atlantic Mist** 8-1; **3. Love Bateta** 25-1. **10 ran.** 3-1 fav Snow Falcon. 3, ¾. (P Cole, Whatcombe). **Tote:** £4.30; £2.00, £1.80, £5.30. DF: £18.50. CSF: £28.97. Tricast: £550.84. Trio: £301.10.

**3.30: 1. MARALINGA** (Declan O'Shea) 6-1; **2. Kinlochewe** 5-1; **3. Inquisitor** 6-5 fav. **8 ran.** Nk, 4. (Lady Herries, Littlehampton). **Tote:** £8.80; £2.00, £2.60. DF: £16.80. CSF: £29.11.

**4.00: 1. KAISER KACHE** (B Doyle) 9-1; **2. Aegean Sound** 5-2 fav; **3. Nightingale Song** 4-1. **7 ran.** Sht-hd, 1¾. (K McAuliffe, Lambourn). **Tote:** £10.10; £4.90, £2.00. DF: £15.00. CSF: £29.54. Tricast: £91.58. NR: Masterstroke, withdrawn not under starters' orders. Rule 4 applies to board prices only, deduction 15p in the pound.

**4.30: 1. JOZA** (C Rutter) 3-1; **2. Dark Mile** 5-1; **3. Martine** 33-1. **13 ran.** 2-1 fav Attribute. ¾, 5. (H Candy, Wantage). **Tote:** £3.60; £1.50, £1.70, £7.30. DF: £12.00. CSF: £19.14. Trio: £383.90.

**5.00: 1. ASHKERNAZY** (Kerry Baker) 20-1; **2. Imposing Time** 5-1; **3. Mister Raider** 12-1. **15 ran.** 7-2 fav Runs In The Family (4th). Nk, hd. (N Berry, Lambourn). **Tote:** £19.80; £4.70, £2.50, £5.20. DF: £141.70. CSF: £115.80. Tricast: £1,212.36. Trio: £565.80.
**Jackpot:** Not won. Pool of £7,346.09 carried forward to York today.
**Placepot:** £959.00. **Quadpot:** £628.50.
**Place 6:** £331.63. **Place 5:** £310.17.

Evening results, page 23

## FOLKESTONE

**HYPERION**
2.20 Spondulicks 2.50 Mutribah 3.25 Greenwich Again 4.00 Shavinsky 4.30 Don Pepe 5.00 One Pound

**GOING:** Good to Firm.
**STALLS:** Straight course – stands side; round course – outside.
**DRAW ADVANTAGE:** Low for 5f & 6f, high for 7f to 1m 1f.
■ Right-hand, undulating course.
■ Course is 1m W of town off A20. Westenhanger station (service from London, Charing Cross) adjoins course. **ADMISSION:** Club £12 (under-16s free), Tattersalls £8.50, Picnic Park £4 per car, plus £4 for each occupant. **CAR PARK:** Free.

**SIS** RACING CHANNEL

**BLINKERED FIRST TIME:** None.
**WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Classic Beauty** (3.25) won at Hamilton on Wednesday; **Rising Spray** (3.25) won here on Friday.
**LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Rocquaine Bay** (3.25) has been sent 226 miles by M Bolton from Shrewton, Wilts; **Ginny Wossername** (2.20) sent 194 miles by W G M Turner from Corton Denham, Somerset; **Zeliba** (3.25) sent 167 miles by Mrs N Macauley from Sproxton, Leics; **Nakami** (4.00) sent 115 miles by P Makin from Ogbourne Maisey, Wilts.

### 2.20 SMARDEN SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £3,000 added 2YO 6f 189yds

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 540 | CHOPIN (13) R Johnson Houghton 8 11 | Barry Smith (7) 1 |
| 2 | 154310 | DASHING ROCKSVILLE (6) (D) M Channon 8 11 | R Hughes 2 |
| 3 | 52514 | GINNY WOSSERNAME (27) (D) W G M Turner 8 11 | D Sweeney (7) 9 |
| 4 | 005302 | GROVEFAIR LAD (3) B Meehan 8 11 | M Tebbutt 4 |
| 5 | 454625 | SPONDULICKS (6) R Hannon 8 11 | Dane O'Neill 7 |
| 6 | 0 | HEAVENLY DANCER (8) Sir Mark Prescott 8 6 | G Duffield 5 |
| 7 | 00 | MS ZIMAN (15) M Bell 8 6 | M Fenton 6 |
| 8 | 004 | PRINCESS OF HEARTS (48) W Haggas 8 6 | R McGhin 8 |
| 9 | 0 | WOODLAND DOVE (33) K Wingrove 8 6 | P McCabe (3) 3 |

- 9 declared -

**BETTING:** 3-1 Spondulicks, 7-2 Dashing Rocksville, Grovefair Lad, 6-1 Ginny Wossername, Princess Of Hearts, Heavenly Dancer, 8-1 others

### 2.50 JOHN McCARTHY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,750 2YO fillies 6f 189yds

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 3 | BEACONSCOT (35) D Loder 8 11 | D R McCabe 7 |
| 2 | 40 | CHAIRMANS DAUGHTER (6) P Cole 8 11 | C Rutter 2 |
| 3 | | CONTROL FREAK A Foster 8 11 | J D Smith (5) 6 |
| 4 | | COWTHAREE M Stoute 8 11 | Paul Eddery 4 |
| 5 | | EPSILON C Brittain 8 11 | S Sanders 3 |
| 6 | 06 | HADAWAH (USA) (36) J Dunlop 8 11 | T Sprake 5 |
| 7 | | MUTRIBAH (USA) H Thomson Jones 8 11 | R Hills 8 |
| 8 | | THE IN-LAWS Sir Mark Prescott 8 11 | G Duffield 1 |

- 8 declared -

**BETTING:** 2-1 Cowtharee, 9-4 Beaconscot, 4-1 Mutribah, 6-1 Hadawah, 8-1 Epsilon, The In-Laws, 10-1 others

### 3.25 WEATHERBYS STALLION BOOK HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,200 added 1m 4f

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 002616 | GREENWICH AGAIN (22) (D) (BF) T Mills 4 9 10 | R Hills 5 |
| 2 | 263001 | CLASSIC BEAUTY (6) R Harris 3 9 5 (6ex) | A Mackay 1 |
| 3 | 505061 | RISING SPRAY (4) (CD) C Horgan 5 8 13 (5ex) | Paul Eddery 6 |
| 4 | 320151 | ZELIBA (14) (D) Mrs N Macauley 4 8 4 | T Sprake 2 |
| 5 | 13-5404 | ROCQUAINE BAY (6) (D) M Bolton 9 8 4 | Dane O'Neill 2 |
| 6 | 00/00- | ARAMON (405) M Haynes 6 7 10 | N Adams 4 |

– 6 declared –

*Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Aramon 7st 1lb.*
**BETTING:** 9-4 Rocquaine Bay, 11-4 Rising Spray, 3-1 Classic Beauty, 5-1 Greenwich Again, 6-1 Zeliba, 25-1 Aramon

### 4.00 GRAFTY GREEN MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 6f

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 6554 | NAKAMI (18) P Makin 4 9 3 | S Sanders 4 |
| 2 | 00 | CANE THEM (19) T J Naughton 3 9 0 | T Sprake 2 |
| 3 | 2- | FAILED TO HIT (11) Sir Mark Prescott 3 9 0 | G Duffield 5 |
| 4 | 0-0 | ONE DREAM (19) B Smart 3 9 0 | M Tebbutt 3 |
| 5 | 060020 | SHAVINSKY (29) P Howling 3 9 0 | Paul Eddery 7 |
| 6 | 20- | IL DORIA (311) A Hide 3 8 8 | R Hills 6 |
| 7 | 0 | SWEET SEVENTEEN (27) H Collingridge 3 8 9 | M Rimmer 1 |

– 7 declared –

**BETTING:** 7-4 Nakami, 5-2 Failed To Hit, 11-4 Shavinsky, 10-1 One Dream, 12-1 Sweet Seventeen, 16-1 Il Doria, 20-1 Cane Them

### 4.30 HIGH HALDEN LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,450 added 6f

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 432022 | SCISSOR RIDGE (4) (D) (BF) J Bridger 4 9 3 | D Harrison 2 |
| 2 | 200520 | DON PEPE (14) (D) R Boss 5 9 0 | G Duffield 3 |
| 3 | 0000-36 | FACE THE FUTURE (120) (D) V Soane 7 9 0 | S Sanders 5 |
| 4 | 0-05624 | WADERS DREAM (4) (D) Pat Mitchell 7 9 0 | M Fenton 1 V |
| 5 | 204002 | SCATHEBURY (8) (D) K Burke 3 8 11 | Paul Eddery 4 V |

- 5 declared -

**BETTING:** 2-1 Scissor Ridge, 5-2 Don Pepe, 7-2 Scathebury, 5-1 Face The Future, 6-1 Waders Dream

### 5.00 PAUL COOK APPRENTICE HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,450 added 3YO 2m 93yds

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 06-0120 | ONE POUND (43) (BF) B Hills 9 7 | J D Smith 7 |
| 2 | 5-0135 | CANDLE SMOKE (6) (C) G Harwood 9 3 | Gaye Harwood (5) 2 |
| 3 | 0-40513 | JAMAICAN FLIGHT (USA) (13) (D) J Hills 9 1 | M Henry 8 |
| 4 | 320236 | GO WITH THE WIND (18) M Bell 9 0 | G Faulkner (3) 4 |
| 5 | 142122 | INFLUENCE PEDLER (24) C Brittain 9 0 | Aimee Cook (3) 1 |
| 6 | 0-62534 | PERFECT GIFT (12) P Cole 8 8 | David O'Neill (7) 2 |
| 7 | 050563 | MEG'S MEMORY (12) John Berry 8 7 | P McCabe 5 |
| 8 | 004200 | GLOWING REEDS (24) C Allen 7 10 | R Mullen (5) 8 V |

- 8 declared -

*Minimum weight: 7st 10lb. True handicap weight: Glowing Reeds 7st 8lb.*
**BETTING:** 3-1 Candle Smoke, 7-2 Influence Pedler, 9-2 Jamaican Flight, 5-1 Go With The Wind, 8-1 One Pound, Meg's Memory, 8-1 others

# sport

## Wright bringing harmony to Wasps and QPR

**David Aaronovitch** on a music mogul's designs for football and rugby in unison

Hard by the A40(M) flyover (Oxford in an hour), in the middle of the giant White City estate, bordered by roads named in the aftermath of the Boer War (South Africa, Bloemfontein, Mafeking), stands the dinky-doo little stadium of Queen's Park Rangers. Only the tall floodlight stems and the large logo distinguish it from some of the low level sixties housing in the area. Inside, where there is room for 19,000 fans to sit, the newish stands (nowhere much taller than a double-decker bus) crowd to the edge of the pitch, creating an intimacy rather like that of the recreated Shakespeare's Globe theatre in Southwark – and utterly unlike the vastnesses of Highbury or Old Trafford.

Everybody likes QPR. For years they have played nice football, without having the temerity actually to win anything (save for one glorious League Cup back in 1967. Oh Mark Lazarus, Peter Springett, Frank Sibley, where are you now? No, I don't really want to know, either). And it was here – despite being a Tottenham man – that I watched my first live match on New Year's Day 1973, when the Rangers gave Manchester United a 3-1 slapping. In all this time they have generally been thought of as Londoo's fifth team (after West Ham, but before Palace – leaving Wimbledon out altogether). It hardly seems the place for a sports revolution.

But there are some strange things about this club. Among the list of the dozen or so companies holding executive boxes (Coopers and Lybrand have two, some outfit called MR Security has another two) are no less than three music companies: Skhratch Music, HMV UK and EMI records. For Rangers are for the music industry what Arsenal are for bald writers, Tottenham are for us Jews and Chelsea are for Conservative politicians.

So here we are, overlooking the pitch, to listen to the club chairman Chris Wright, (multi-millionaire music mogul, boss of Chrysalis, the man widely blamed for discovering Genesis), unveil his plans for his beloved Rangers. And what plans they are. Mr Wright has also bought Wasps Rugby Union Football Club (based in a suburb of London called Sudbury, which I have never visited) and merged the two sports operations in one – Loftus Road plc. This season 12 rugby matches will be played at the ground, within easy travelling distance of central London. They include Wasps versus the Welsh champions, Cardiff, and a match against Toulouse. It is a unique proposition.

Its author is an archetype of the new breed. Bransonesque in appearance, he probably looks far smarter in Davy Crockett coat or Bermuda shorts, than he contrives to be in shirt and tie. He also sports the Sugar/Yentob "beard" of successful 90s men, as worn by those who don't actually like beards, but aren't that keen on their faces either. He is genial, understated, lacking in the enormous pomposity of the soccer chairmen of old and immensely ambitious.

He believes that Wasps and Rangers can be good for each other; they will be promoted together, their sales operations merged, their fans encouraged into cross support. Season ticket holders at Loftus Road can come to a football match (or "show" as Mr Wright engagingly calls them) one week and watch Bristol or Bath the next. So, on Sunday 8 September, Saracens visit QPR and, if more than 5,000 or 6,000 turn up, Chris Wright will be vindicated. In the long term, if both teams were successful and support grew, then he might be looking at building a new stadium. This, as a senior executive put it to me, would be outside football-ground bespeckled London and "in the M40 corridor", somewhere in the under-served Western sprawl.

The Rugger lot, poor relations in every way, profess themselves ecstatic with the arrangement. Wasps' chief executive, Geoff Huckstep – who has clearly spent a whole productive season in the Coopers and Lybrand suite – is keen to "give an indication of some of the synergies", while accepting the need "in the fullness of time to evolve some corporate identity". Now, you never heard old farts talking like that, did you? Which is why old farts wouldn't have brought off the coup that Mr Huckstep has, that of signing up All-Black winger, Va'aiga Tuigamala, who has taken a real shine to the Loftus Road stadium. He will join Wasps next month after Wigan's season has finished and will return to Wigan for pre-season training early in 1997.

The one big problem with this deal is the pitch. Football needs nice, flat, unrutted surfaces, so that the best players on the continent can shimmy and turn. Rugby players prefer a slushy mudpit, so that it hurts less when you're tackled. And the Rangers pitch, which they allow us to walk on, is a thing of beauty: it is such a lovely vibrant green, so soft, springy and earth-smelling, that I want to take it home with me and make mossy love to it. But won't Mr Tuigamala and friends ruin it? Apparently not. Turf specialists have declared that the grass can cope. And "we have 1,000 square metres of spare turf in identical condition in storage, should the need arise", says the Operations Director, Alan Hedges. Whew.

As I make my way out of the Executive entrance, a sparkling navy blue Range Rover parks half on the pavement, and a tall brown man with gold shades brushes past. It is the former England striker Mark Hateley, every inch a modern sporting hero, dropping in to "pick up some stuff from Ray", before going off to Leeds United on loan. In South Africa Road, with the rundown Springbok pub and the metal-grilled William Hills and the urchin in the QPR shirt, Hateley cuts an incongruous figure. He would look far more at home in the M40 corridor.

Wright: Ambitious plans

Mountain marathons are the toughest possible races over the hardest terrain. **Rob Howard** reports

## Alpine runners reach the peak of endurance

From high on the slopes of Aonoch Mor the lights of Fort William appeared far below through the rolling cloud which swept across the mountain. Only the flash of torchlights and low voices betrayed the presence of competitors in the Lowe Alpine Mountain Marathon, transported to this high campsite by the nearby ski gondola.

They entered knowing only that they would spend a weekend running somewhere in the Scottish mouotains. They found that their competition area was a vast range of the highest and most desolate mountains in Britain, and that even before the race began their bed for the night was on boggy ground 2,000 feet above sea level.

Mountain marathons are a masochistic mix of fell running, orienteering and survival skills. In the United Kingdom these races have been going 30 years and attract thousands of runners. For environmental reasons, only 500 set off in pairs into the mist next morning, but their challenge was a daunting one.

The course planner, Martin Bagness, a former international orienteer, said: "We hold the race in the toughest possible terrain and aim to set the most testing courses and attract the highest standard of competition." He had placed 30 small marker flags in the mountains, which competitors had to find using navigation skills. Their course was just a list of grid references and much of the skill lay in choosing the best route between checkpoints. Each pair was carrying a rucksack with everything they would need to camp out for the night.

There were five courses for all levels of ability, and competitors came from all over the United Kingdom. Camped at the foot of the Nevis range was a group of 10 from Devon who had arrived late after a 12-hour drive. Among them was Robin Carter, who said: "I'm always so tired before I even start these races."

Eddie Speak avoided that problem by flying his light plane to a nearby airfield, and Davie Mack had come by sea from the Hebridean isle of Jura.

A note in the gondola reminded travellers the mountain had an Arctic climate, and while most of the United Kingdom suffered a heatwave the mountains around Ben Nevis were cloud covered, windy and wet. Instead of factor 25, runners were applying midge repellent, and the only paddling was across the fast flowing rivers and through bogs.

Saturday was spent on long climbs to heights over 3,000 feet and picking a way along rock strewn ridges, guided only by the compass. At the end of the day, runners arrived at the campsite at Luibeilt with sodden feet after fording the nearby Abhainn Rath. This was not a campsite with the usual facilities. Luibeilt is a mountain bothy, a rough shelter for walkers situated six miles from the nearest road. The tired competitors simply pitched their tents in the tussocks of marsh grass, lit their stoves and settled down for the night.

> Even before the race began, their bed for the night was on boggy ground 2,000ft above sea level

The tent containing Mel Owen and John Harvey was an unusual shape as Owen had left the tent poles behind, but they survived and won the veterans' prize in the 'C' course. Other veteran winners were Mary Gillespie, 61, and her husband Alex, who is still active in the local mountain rescue at 62. A regular mountain marathon runner, he lives in Fort William and said: "I doubt anyone in the town is aware of the race. It will come and go and won't have any impact on the landscape."

That was illustrated in the morning when the tented township disappeared, the runners repacked and set off towards the distant outline of Ben Nevis in better weather. Luibeilt returned to its isolated splendour, and to help ensure this the competitors' rucksacks were checked for rubbish at the finish. Anyone not carrying out their litter was disqualified.

The winners of the élite class were Mark Seddon and Dan Parker, who covered about 60km in 10hr 31min. But every pair to finish had overcome the weather, the terrain and the cunning of the course planner.

Among them was Victoria Skelton, 17 and running a mountain marathon for the first time. She said: "It was a lot rougher than I expected with more rocks and almost no paths, which made descending much harder than climbing. I'm more used to the Lake District, which has paths everywhere and is far easier." Asked if she would compete again, she hesitated before answering: "Probably..."

Ups and downs: A mountain marathon man plots a course across the mist-shrouded Nevis range. Photograph: Rob Howard

## Holmes upbeat despite defeat

**Paralympics**

World records are continuing to tumble with alarming regularity at the Paralympic Games in Atlanta, and nowhere more so than in the pool.

Chris Holmes, the partially sighted Cambridge graduate who is a veteran of three Paralympic games and the most successful British competitor in Barceluna in 1992 with six gold medals and one silver in the water, began his campaign in the men's B2 200m medley; finishing second in 2min 23.84sec behind Australia's Kingsley Bulgarin, who recorded 2:22.45. Both meo were inside the old record by almost five seconds.

Holmes, although not overly disappointed, believed with better funding he could have improved as dramatically as Bulgarin. He said: "The improvement we are seeing in the pool is amazing, but a lot of what we are seeing here symbolises the difference between Britain and the way other nations are pursuing their sport. Bulgario has been getting £10,000 funding a year, paid by his state, which is bound to have an effect.

"However, this record has stood since 1984. I really felt that if I could go under it, I would win it. I did, and went under my personal best by five seconds, but when I get him on to the sprint freestyle, that is my territory."

Jody Cundy, a below-the-knee amputee, registered a new world record in the S10 100m butterfly with 1min 02.44sec. Giles Long also took gold in the 100m butterfly, but in the S8 category, while Tim Reddish claimed silver in the B2 200m medley. Tetraplegic Kenneth Cairns finished in the silver medal position behind Slovakia's Andrej Zatko in the men's S3 50m butterfly.

Zatko, with no arms to speak of and only three feet tall, powered away underwater at the start with Cairns never getting nearer than five metres to the Slovakian, who set another Paralympic record in 1min 11.23sec.

Britain's standing volleyball team, made up of amputees, exited the competition on Sunday after losing to Israel. Defeats in straight sets by Germany and Slovakia left the Britons needing to defeat Israel to be sure of a quarter-final place, but they were narrowly beaten 3-2.

## Japanese tourists go in search of credibility

Takeshi Hashimoto prepares for a struggle against Scotland in the Student World Cup Photograph: Victoria Matthers

**Dave Hadfield** assesses the difficulties facing one of rugby league's new recruits

On Friday night, the Japanese student rugby league team delighted spectators at Warrington with their display of synchronised and ceremonial bowing.

Less than 24 hours later, they showed rather less cohesion in conceding 90 points to Scotland in their opening match in the Halifax Student Rugby League World Cup.

That is the quandary when the game goes exotic. On the one hand, the Japanese, snapping pictures of each other like any hand of young tourists, are welcomed as colourful newcomers. On the field, with France to play tonight and England on Saturday, there is the danger of serious embarrassment, oot to mention loss of face.

The other way of looking at it is to say that it is a miracle that they are here at all – and conceding as few as 90 points – because the code in Japan has had the bumpiest of rides. Despite the gut feeling that the Japanese, with their lack of line-out jumpers and specialist scrummagers and love of running the ball, are more naturally suited to league, it has proved difficult to convince them of that.

"We had 35 players at one session," said Max Mannix, a former Sydney first-grade player whose mission in life this is. "Then they found out it was rugby league and the following week we had two. It has to do with Japanese society, where being part of the group is very important. If you step outside, you can he ostracised."

Even when Japan managed to field a side in the Sydney Sevens, they were disqualified for not being Japanese enough, when they fielded Mannix's younger brother, Greg. "It was racism pure and simple," he said. "These blokes are discriminated against already, so we don't need that sort of thing on top of it."

It was the partial conversion of the president of the previously hostile Japanese Rugby Union that has made life slightly easier for Mannix and his group. "He saw Wigan play Bath and came back saying that, although he wouldn't actively help us, he wouldn't put barriers in our path either," said Ken Isaacs, another expatriate Australian, who played for Halifax in 1984/85 and is oow Japan's team manager.

Mannix and Co needed that concession when they lost their sponsor a couple of weeks before the tour. That meant that a number of players were forced to drop out and, to make up their numbers, they held a session at Osaka University rugby union club, from which they filled up their empty places.

"We have been told that there will he no comeback against these players," Mannix said, "but we won't really know that until we get home."

It is what happens here that is of immediate concern, especially after that 90-6 hammering by the Scots. "Not only was it the first time many of them had played 13-a-side rugby league, it was the first time that they had played on grass, against foreigners or in front of a crowd," Isaacs said. "The result doesn't show lack of commitment, but just lack of knowledge and technique."

It was not surprising that the Japanese players should huddle around the play-the-ball in defence like a tour party around their guide's umhrella. "But I expect a hundred per cent improvement in our other two games," said Isaacs, who pays tribute to the Western Samoan team who have unofficially adopted them.

"The Samoans have been great. They have taken our blokes under their wing and given them a training session to help them work out what they need to do." Everyone, in fact, wants the Japanese to come through unscathed and with some pride intact. "Look at them," said one Scot as the clans from Tokyo and Osaka got to grips with a Highland Fling at the welcome barbecue for the competing teams last week. "They can always do a copy that's better than the original."

Isaacs hopes the talent for fast learning applies to picking up the rhythms of rugby league as well.

TODAY'S FIXTURES: HALIFAX STUDENT WORLD CUP Pool G: England v Scotland (7.0) (at Gateshead); France v Japan (7.0) (at Hull).

## Wallabies hoping for England Test

**Rugby Union**

Australia are trying to add England to the fixture list for their European tour later this year and revive the tradition of playing a Grand Slam of tests against all four home nations.

Scotland, Ireland and Italy are already scheduled to host Tests against the Wallabies during their eight-week tour which starts oo 15 October.

John O'Neill, chief executive of the Australian Rugby Union, said Wales had since suggested adding a one-off Test in Cardiff. "Now that we have three of the four Grand Slam countries, why wouldn't you maximise the value of the tour?" O'Neill said. "It makes sense, and I'm going to pursue it this week."

The Rugby Football Union said it would look at the possibility of a game if a formal application is received. "We have heard nothing as yet," a spokesman said. "The fixture schedule still stands. The Wales v Australia game is still to be confirmed and we will wait until we hear something." Australia last played all the home nations on tour in 1984, when they won all four Tests.

If the tour changes are confirmed at an ARU board meeting tomorrow, Australia will play 12 Tests during 1996. The proposed move has already brought an angry response from the veteran winger David Campese, who fears the players' workload is becoming too heavy.

Before starting the Test programme in June, the Australian players represented their states in the Super 12 southern hemisphere provincial competition.

"How many Tests do they want us to play?" asked Campese, who is to make his 100th international appearance on tour. "I think it's ridiculous. Don't they think we've had a hard enough season as it is? There's a chance they're going to overdo it."

The centre Tim Horan welcomed the prospect of playing all four home nations, but shared Campese's concern about the physical effects. "You have to be aware of the toll it would take on the players," Horan said.

هكذا من الاصل

# Christie still ready to run for Britain

**Athletics**

SIMON TURNBULL
reports from Gateshead

Linford Christie produced his second volte-face of the summer here last night with the announcement that his 63rd appearance for Great Britain, in the Bupa Challenge meeting, might not, after all, be his last.

"I will be running in the European Cup if I am selected next year," was his unexpected announcement to those who had gathered to witness his supposed farewell international appearance.

It was by the banks of the Tyne that Linford Christie took the first stuttering steps that were to lead him to fame, and not a little fortune, in the international fast lane.

Seventeen years after his baptism in the international athletics arena, as a gangling teenager in the Amoco Games, Britain's most bemedalled athlete returned to Gateshead Stadium for what was to have been his last hurrah in the vest of his adopted country.

Few in the 10,000 crowd would have recalled the 19-year-old Thames Valley Harrier who was given his first big break in that 1979 Gateshead meeting after finishing runner-up to Phil Brown in the senior 200 metres race at the English Schools' Championships in Nottingham. Christie finished sixth in his 100m heat in 11.18sec, an anonymous young also-ran in the slipstream of Allan Wells.

Last night, at the age of 36, Christie, still the reigning European and Commonwealth champion at 100m, opened his night's work in the match billed as a meeting between Great Britain and an international select team by revisiting the event which earned him his first invitation to top-level competition.

He looked like recording his 52nd win for Britain, too, as he rounded the bend marginally in front of John Regis. The strength of his rival proved decisive, though. Regis dipped to victory by two-hundredths of a second in 20.62sec.

Watching Christie from the edge of the warm-up track was the man from Manchester who succeeded him as Olympic 100m champion in Atlanta and who took his 100m world title in Gothenburg last year. Donovan Bailey, born in Manchester, Jamaica, but a Canadian resident since the age of 11, was preparing to face Christie in the shorter sprint last night.

When last on English soil, to launch the adidas Olympic-year range in January, Bailey caused a helpfully high-profile stir by claiming Christie had faked injury while losing in Gothenburg. He arrived on Tyneside in more sanguine mood, bearing an olive branch for the British veteran.

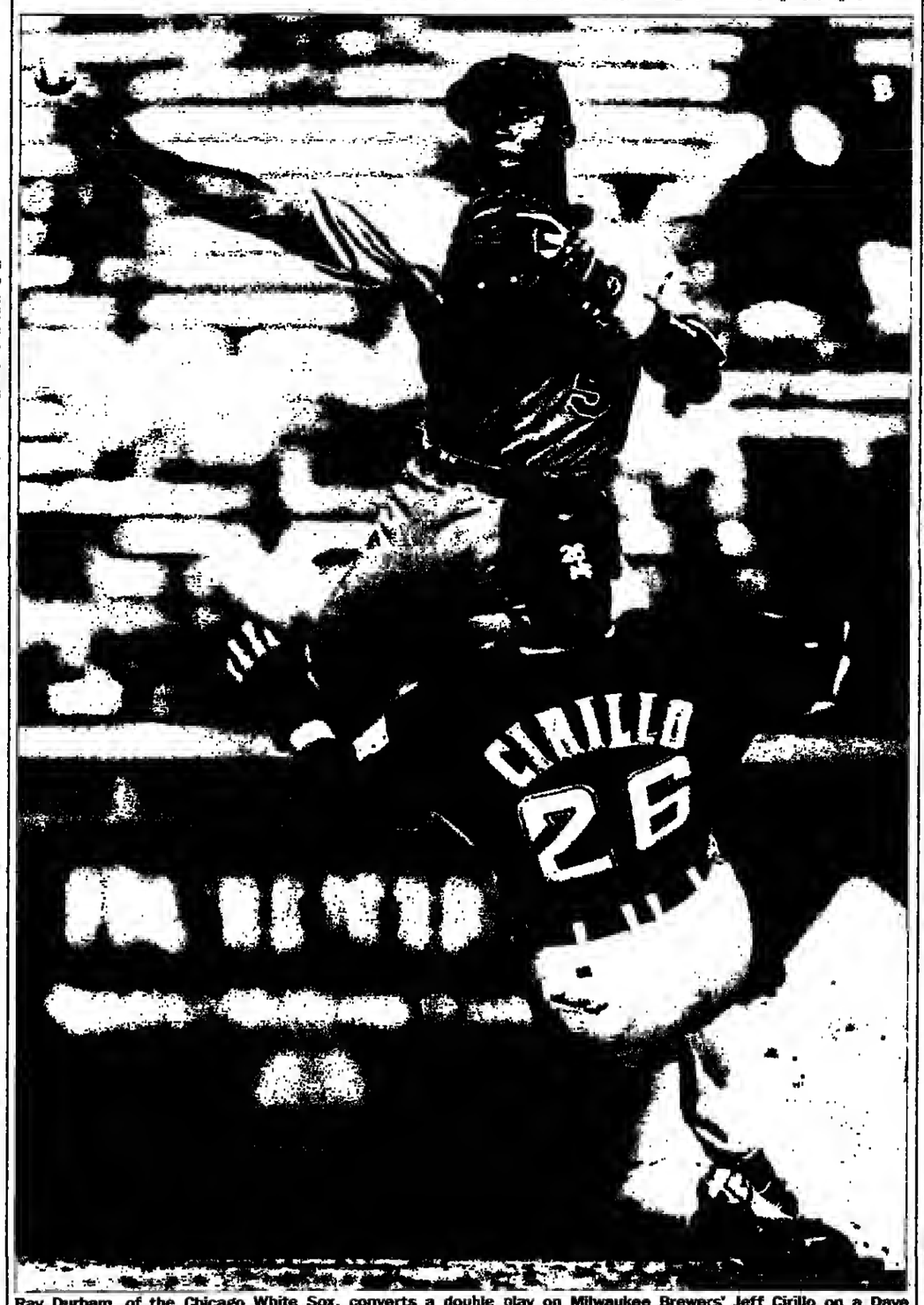
"I felt for him in Atlanta," he said, referring to Christie's false-starting major championship finale. "Linford has been a great champion, very consistent since 1986. I think if he wanted to run a couple of top-class races next year he would still be a fearsome competitor. He would certainly be welcomed back to mix it with the boys."

Bailey himself has not yet taken part in the homecoming welcome Canada has been waiting to extend to an Olympic 100m champion since 1928. "I haven't been back to Canada since the Olympics," Bailey revealed. "I know it'll be hectic when I get back and I need to concentrate on training for the Grand Prix races I've got left this season. I've still got work to do."

Part of Bailey's job description here was to assist in the putting of bums on seats to avoid a repeat of the Performance Games, which took place in a two-thirds-empty Crystal Palace last week. Hence his appearance at a pre-meeting press conference clad in a Newcastle United shirt with the figures 9.84 on the back.

The digits might need to be amended if the 28-year-old returns next year. "I can certainly improve on that," Bailey said, referring to his world record run in Atlanta. "I didn't have a good start. I can accelerate more from 30 to 70 metres. And I can relax better from 70 to the finish." It could hardly have been a consoling thought for Christie.

## Baseman is double trouble for Brewer



Ray Durham, of the Chicago White Sox, converts a double play on Milwaukee Brewers' Jeff Cirillo on a Dave Nilsson hit in the eighth innings in Milwaukee. The Brewers beat the Sox 8-7 Photograph: Dan Currier/AP

# Mean McCague turns the screw on Somerset

**Cricket**

DAVID LLEWELLYN
reports from Canterbury
Kent 616-7 and 92-2dec
Somerset 389-9 dec and 257
*Kent won by 62 runs*

Martin McCague at his malevolent best is one of the meanest sights in cricket, as Somerset discovered yesterday. A devastating spell of 4 for 14 in 33 balls sent Kent into second place in the championship and may well have gone some way to solving the county's captaincy conundrum.

Their third stand-in captain of the season is Trevor Ward, who has now led them to victory in each of his last two championship games in charge. While there are calls for Matthew Fleming to be appointed, Ward, as senior pro, is demonstrating his leadership capabilities where it matters, out in the field.

With McCague charging in at one end and Dean Headley knocking them over at the other, Ward looks to be on to a winner. Kent are proving something of an irresistible force in the title race and sit two points behind the new leaders, Derbyshire.

The finish was set up by Ward's willingness to set Somerset a tempting, and some felt unnecessarily generous, target of 320 in 88 overs, but the match swung this way and that throughout the final afternoon.

The Somerset opener, Mark Lathwell, has had a patchy season before yesterday's effort and fully deserved his hundred. Unfortunately, having sustained the momentum right up to tea, he made a late decision to leave alone a ball from Headley which clipped the top corner of his off stump.

Shane Lee's departure a ball later raised hopes of a remarkable third hat-trick for Headley, but it was not to be. Having been interrupted by the interval, Simon Ecclestone saw off the hat-trick delivery and proceeded to hit an invigorating half-century.

While Ecclestone was there with valuable, if cautious, support from Keith Parsons there was every chance of a Somerset victory. Then the menacing McCague re-entered the equation and the balance swung finally and conclusively to Kent.

**Top of the Championship**

| | P | W | L | D | Bat | Bwl | Tot |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Derbyshire | 13 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 41 | 43 | 208 |
| Kent | 13 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 39 | 40 | 206 |
| Surrey | 12 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 37 | 44 | 192 |
| Leicester | 12 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 39 | 41 | 191 |
| Essex | 12 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 41 | 39 | 188 |
| Yorkshire | 13 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 37 | 42 | 181 |
| Warwicks | 12 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 29 | 39 | 170 |

If Somerset's declaration 78 runs shy of avoiding the follow-on raised a few eyebrows it certainly helped to maintain interest. The problem was that setting a target involved Kent being fed runs by some severely below-par bowling. Peter Bowler, living up to his name, injected humour into a thankless task with a series of impressions of different bowlers, a routine which finished with him bowling slow left-arm and picking up the wicket of Ward.

The most eloquent shot of the Kent second innings had been the ball before Ward's departure when the batsman thumped a full toss into a rubbish bin in the Frank Woolley stand for six.

Matthew Walker, meanwhile, created another little bit of history after his highest score on the ground in the first innings by becoming the first Kent player to spend all four days in the field.

# Hampshire play safe

Robin Smith and Will Kendall hit half-centuries to secure a hard-earned draw for Hampshire against Lancashire at Old Trafford.

Hampshire never threatened to reach their victory target of 415 after resuming on 21 for one, but comfortably reached safety at 304 for 6 before Mike Watkinson, the Lancashire captain, called a halt with three overs remaining.

Middlesex had to fight for a draw against Worcestershire after pushing for victory for much of the day at Lord's.

Needing 251 to win off 49 overs, Middlesex got off to a flying start. Once Mike Gatting was out first ball, wickets fell steadily as Middlesex tried to keep up with the run rate. They eventually reached 242 for 9 with James Hewitt and Phil Tufnell the not-out batsmen.

## SPORTING DIGEST

# O'Brien out of obscurity to win tour title

**Tennis**

Alex O'Brien, a wild-card entry ranked No 169 in the world, became the lowest-ranked player to win a title this year when he beat Jan Siemerink to secure the Pilot Pen International in New Haven, Connecticut.

The 26-year-old Texan's 7-6, 6-4 victory over the 10th-seeded Dutchman followed victories over the top seed, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, in the quarter-finals and the No 14 seed, Mark Philippoussis, in the semis.

The world No 1, Pete Sampras, won his first title since the Japan Open four months ago, edging out the second seeded Goran Ivanisevic 7-6, 7-5 in the RCA Championships in Indianapolis.

The Olympic champion, Lindsay Davenport, continued her excellent summer when she enjoyed a straight-sets win in the Acura Classic in Manhettan Beach, California, over the second seed, Anke Huber.

## CRICKET SCOREBOARD

### Britannic Assurance County Championship

*Final day of four*

**Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire**

**DERBY:** Derbyshire (23pts) beat Nottinghamshire (7) by 303 runs.

*Derbyshire won toss*

**DERBYSHIRE** – First Innings 341 (D M Jones 105, D G Cork 97; M N Bowen 5-53).

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE** – First Innings 317 (P Johnson 82, C L Cairns 75, R T Robinson 53; P A J DeFreitas 5-54).

**DERBYSHIRE** – Second Innings 377 for 2 dec (K J Barnett 103, C J Adams 106, T J G O'Gorman 58; J A Afford 6-87).

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE** – Second Innings

(Saturday: 72 for 4)
P R Pollard ret hurt 14
C L Cairns c Rollins b Malcolm 20
M N Bowen c Jones b DeFreitas 14
C M Tolley b Malcolm 0
K P Evans b DeFreitas 1
†W M Noon c Rollins b Malcolm 7
J A Afford not out 0
Extras (lb2, w5, nb10) 17
Total (31.3 overs) 96

Fall: 1-43, 2-43, 3-46, 4-86, 5-79, 6-79, 7-80, 8-98, 9-98.

Bowling: Malcolm 16-2-43-5; DeFreitas 15.3-3-53-4.

Umpires: R Palmer and R A White.

**Kent v Somerset**

**CANTERBURY:** Kent (21pts) beat Somerset (5) by 62 runs.

*Kent won toss*

**KENT** – First Innings 616 for 7 dec (M J Walker 275no, C L Hooper 76, D W Headley 63no, T R Ward 57).

**SOMERSET** – First Innings 389 for 8 dec (R J Harden 136, S C Ecclestone 94).

**KENT** – Second Innings
D P Fulton c and b Harden 9
M J Walker not out 43
*T R Ward c Turner b Bowler 24
C L Hooper not out 16
Extras 0
Total (for 2 dec, 13 overs) 92

Fall: 1-18, 2-61.

Did not bat: N J Llong, M V Fleming, †S C Willis, M M Patel, D W Headley, M J McCague, T N Wren.

Bowling: Harden 7-0-39-1; Bowler 6-0-53-1.

**SOMERSET** – Second Innings
M N Lathwell b Headley 81
M E Trescothick c Llong b Headley 0
*P D Bowler c Fulton b Hooper 32
R J Harden c Fulton b Llong 29
K A Parsons c Ward b McCague 30
S Lee lbw b Headley 0
S C Ecclestone c Headley b Patel 56
†R J Turner lbw b McCague 1
G D Rose b McCague 7
J I D Kerr b McCague 0
J D Batty not out 7
Extras (b4, lb8, nb2) 14
Total (80.3 overs) 257

Fall: 1-1, 2-85, 3-143, 4-154, 5-154, 6-229, 7-235, 8-243, 9-244.

Bowling: Headley 13-4-39-3; McCague 10.3-3-21-4; Wren 7-1-29-0; Patel 29-8-81-1; Hooper 15-7-38-1; Llong 6-1-37-1.

Umpires: S Leadbeater and A Clarkson.

**Lancashire v Hampshire**

**OLD TRAFFORD:** Lancashire (10pts) drew with Hampshire (8).

*Lancashire won toss*

**LANCASHIRE** – First Innings 342 (M A Atherton 63, N H Fairbrother 54).

**HAMPSHIRE** – First Innings 234 (G W White 58, W S Kendall 53, M Keech 60no; G Chapple 4-43).

**LANCASHIRE** – Second Innings 306 for 5 dec (M A Atherton 50, J P Crawley 100no).

**HAMPSHIRE** – Second Innings

(Saturday: 21 for 1)
P R Whitaker run out 37
R J Maru lbw b Watkinson 21
M Keech st Hegg b Keedy 42
R A Smith b Keedy 77
W S Kendall c Hegg b Green 75
*J P Stephenson not out 25
†A N Aymes not out 7
Extras (lb7, w5, nb4) 16
Total (for 6, 107 overs) 304

Fall: 1-16, 2-55, 3-70, 4-133, 5-226, 6-283.

Did not bat: S D Udal, M J Thursfield, S J Renshaw.

Bowling: Martin 25-8-64-0; Chapple 19-7-48-1; Green 11-0-54-1; Watkinson 20-5-62-1; Keedy 27-10-49-2; Gallian 2-0-12-0; Atherton 6-1-8-0.

Umpires: J D Bond and G Dudleston.

**Middlesex v Worcestershire**

**LORD'S:** Middlesex (9pts) drew with Worcestershire (11).

*Middlesex won toss*

**WORCESTERSHIRE** – First Innings 369 (T M Moody 124, V S Solanki 89, W P C Weston 59).

**MIDDLESEX** – First Innings 352 for 9 dec (M R Ramprakash 64, J D Carr 68no, P C R Tufnell 67no; R K Illingworth 5-85).

**WORCESTERSHIRE** – Second Innings

(Saturday: 89 for 4)
T S Curtis c Fraser b Weekes 118
S W K Ellis c Pooley b Tufnell 15
V S Solanki c Fraser b Tufnell 26
†S J Rhodes c Pooley b Weekes 1
G R Lampitt not out 22
R K Illingworth not out 2
Extras (b2, lb7, nb8) 17
Total (for 6 dec, 100 overs) 238

Fall: 1-28, 2-40, 3-47, 4-85, 5-118, 6-164, 7-179, 8-224.

Did not bat: A Sheriyar.

Bowling: Fraser 8-3-11-0; Fay 3-0-9-0; Tufnell 47-17-72-4; Hewitt 8-4-17-1; Johnson 5-2-12-0; Weekes 29-2-103-3.

**MIDDLESEX** – Second Innings
P N Weekes b Hick 37
J C Pooley lbw b Solanki 87
M R Ramprakash b Solanki 10
*M W Gatting b Solanki 0
†K R Brown c Lampitt b Solanki 30
J D Carr run out 14
J P Hewitt not out 14
R L Johnson c Curtis b Illingworth 28
A R C Fraser st Rhodes b Solanki 3
R A Fay run out 3
P C R Tufnell not out 1
Extras (b5, lb2, w2, nb6) 15
Total (for 9, 49 overs) 242

Fall: 1-100, 2-134, 3-134, 4-155, 5-185, 6-192, 7-225, 8-238, 9-241.

Bowling: Sheriyar 6-0-18-0; Ellis 3-0-17-0; Illingworth 14-0-57-1; Lampitt 8-0-42-0; Hick 7-1-31-1; Solanki 11-1-69-5.

Umpires: J H Harris and R Julian.

**Warwickshire v Glamorgan**

**EDGBASTON:** Warwickshire (24pts) beat Glamorgan (5) by two wickets.

*Warwickshire won toss*

**WARWICKSHIRE** – First Innings 498 (S M Pollock 150no, K J Piper 82, D P Ostler 65, N V Knight 63).

**GLAMORGAN** – First Innings 214 (S P James 90, M P Maynard 69; A F Giles 6-63).

**GLAMORGAN** – Second Innings 419 (S P James 148, M P Maynard 95, R D B Croft 78; N M K Smith 5-166).

**WARWICKSHIRE** – Second Innings

(Saturday: 11 for 0)
N V Knight b Gibson 12
M J Powell c and b Gibson 39
W G Khan b Watkin 8
D P Ostler lbw b Watkin 2
T L Penney lbw b Watkin 0
S M Pollock c Morris b Gibson 8
D R Brown not out 26
†K J Piper lbw b Croft 17
N M K Smith c James b Croft 6
A F Giles not out 10
Extras (b4, lb4) 8
Total (for 8, 40 overs) 136

Fall: 1-19, 2-38, 3-62, 4-62, 5-71, 6-82, 7-105, 8-113.

Did not bat: *T A Munton.

Bowling: Watkin 16-4-38-3; Croft 16-5-47-2; Gibson 8-0-43-3.

Umpires: J C Balderstone and V A Holder.

**Championship table**

| | P | W | L | D | Bat | Bwl | Tot |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Derbyshire (14) | 13 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 41 | 43 | 208 |
| Kent (18) | 13 | 7 | 1 | 5 | 39 | 40 | 206 |
| Surrey (12) | 12 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 37 | 44 | 192 |
| Leics (7) | 12 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 39 | 41 | 191 |
| Essex (5) | 12 | 6 | 2 | 4 | 41 | 39 | 188 |
| Yorkshire (8) | 13 | 6 | 5 | 2 | 37 | 42 | 181 |
| Warwicks (1) | 12 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 29 | 39 | 170 |
| Middlesex (2) | 13 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 26 | 45 | 160 |
| Sussex (15) | 12 | 5 | 5 | 2 | 23 | 39 | 148 |
| Somerset (9) | 12 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 25 | 45 | 143 |
| Worcs (10) | 12 | 3 | 3 | 6 | 32 | 44 | 142 |
| Glamorgan (16) | 12 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 36 | 30 | 139 |
| Hampshire (13) | 12 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 28 | 42 | 130 |
| Gloucs (6) | 13 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 17 | 48 | 126 |
| Lancashire (4) | 12 | 1 | 4 | 7 | 35 | 35 | 107 |
| Notts (11) | 12 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 30 | 39 | 100 |
| Northants (3) | 12 | 1 | 6 | 5 | 26 | 39 | 96 |
| Durham (17) | 13 | 0 | 9 | 4 | 19 | 48 | 79 |

*■ 1995 positions in brackets.*

**Tour match**

**Essex v Pakistan**

**CHELMSFORD:** Pakistan won by 271 runs.

**PAKISTAN** – First Innings 303 for 9 dec (Inzamam-ul-Haq 106, Asif Mujtaba 100no; R C Irani 4-67).

**ESSEX** – First Innings 191 (D D J Robinson 57; Waqar Younis 5-42, Saqlain Mushtaq 4-47).

**PAKISTAN** – Second Innings 277 for 2 dec (Saeed Anwar 102, Salim Malik 104no).

**ESSEX** – Second Innings
D D J Robinson c and b Saqlain Mushtaq 55
A J E Hibbert c Rashid Latif b Waqar Younis 4
J J B Lewis c Sub b Saqlain Mushtaq 21
S D Peters c Aamir Sohail b Saqlain Mushtaq 0
R C Irani st Rashid Latif b Saqlain Mushtaq 17
†B J Hyam lbw b Waqar Younis 8
M C Ilott b Waqar Younis 0
P M Such b Waqar Younis 3
S J W Andrew st Rashid Latif b Saqlain Mushtaq 2
J H Childs not out 0
*P J Prichard absent 0
Extras (lb6, nb2) 8
Total (37.2 overs) 118

Fall: 1-31, 2-88, 3-86, 4-89, 5-110, 6-112, 7-116, 8-116, 9-118.

Bowling: Waqar Younis 11-5-26-4; Mohammad Akram 4-1-14-0; Ata-ur-Rehman 4-0-21-0; Saqlain Mushtaq 13.2-5-34-5; Aamir Sohail 5-2-17-0.

Umpires: P Adams and J H Hampshire.

**OTHER MATCH** (Final day of three): Linlithgow: Scotland 380 for 5 dec and 261 for 7 dec (I L Philip 110); Ireland 323 for 5 dec and 301 for 6 (D A Lewis 71, P G Gillespie 53). Match drawn.

**Starting today**

**MINOR COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP** (First day of two; 11.0): Kidmore End: Beds v Oxon. Marlow: Bucks v Lincs. Toft: Cheshire v Shrops. Truro: Cornwall v Devon. Kington: Hereford v Wales. Long Marston: Herts v Cambs. Jesmond: Northumberland v Cumberland. Bournemouth: Staffs v Beds. Mildenhall: Suffolk v Norfolk. Trowbridge: Wilts v Dorset.

**Baseball**

**AMERICAN LEAGUE:** Cleveland 11 Detroit 3; Seattle 13 New York Yankees 12; Milwaukee 8 Chicago White Sox 7; Toronto 6 Minnesota 2; Oakland 9 Baltimore 6; California 4 Boston 3; Texas 10 Kansas City 3.

| Eastern Division | W | L | PCT | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| New York | 70 | 52 | .574 | - |
| Baltimore | 65 | 58 | .528 | 5½ |
| Boston | 60 | 64 | .484 | 11 |
| Toronto | 55 | 69 | .444 | 16 |
| Detroit | 42 | 81 | .341 | 28½ |
| **Central Division** | | | | |
| Cleveland | 75 | 49 | .605 | - |
| Chicago | 68 | 57 | .544 | 7½ |
| Minnesota | 62 | 61 | .504 | 12½ |
| Kansas City | 58 | 67 | .464 | 17½ |
| Milwaukee | 58 | 67 | .464 | 17½ |
| **Western Division** | | | | |
| Texas | 71 | 53 | .573 | - |
| Seattle | 64 | 58 | .525 | 6 |
| Oakland | 62 | 65 | .488 | 10½ |
| California | 57 | 66 | .463 | 13½ |

**NATIONAL LEAGUE:** Atlanta 2 Pittsburgh 1 (14 innings); Philadelphia 7 San Francisco 6; Cincinnati 9 Colorado 4; St Louis 5 Florida 3; Chicago Cubs 10 Houston 8; San Diego 2 New York Mets 0; Montreal 7 Los Angeles 3.

| Eastern Division | W | L | PCT | GB |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Atlanta | 77 | 46 | .626 | - |
| Montreal | 67 | 55 | .549 | 9½ |
| New York | 58 | 67 | .464 | 20 |
| Florida | 57 | 67 | .460 | 20½ |
| Philadelphia | 50 | 75 | .400 | 28 |
| **Central Division** | | | | |
| St Louis | 67 | 57 | .540 | - |
| Houston | 66 | 58 | .532 | 1 |
| Cincinnati | 62 | 59 | .512 | 3½ |
| Chicago | 61 | 61 | .500 | 5 |
| Pittsburgh | 52 | 71 | .423 | 14½ |
| **Western Division** | | | | |
| San Diego | 67 | 59 | .532 | - |
| Los Angeles | 66 | 58 | .532 | - |
| Colorado | 62 | 62 | .500 | 4 |
| San Francisco | 52 | 69 | .430 | 12½ |

**Bowls**

**MEN'S ALL-ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS** (Worthing): Fours first round: Aldershot Traction (D Dunford) bt De Havilland, Herts (F Wareham) 24-10; Alnwick (J Hume) bt Coleford (B Liddington) 27-18; Stenalees, Cornwall (M Read) bt Alexandra Park, Dorset (B Sheppard) 19-15; County Arts (B Taylor) bt Bulmer, Hereford (R Perry) 23-22; Denham (K Smith) bt Henlow Park (R Hirst) 22-13; Romsey (G Topham) bt Stockley (R Maxwell) 22-15; Netherton (N Brignell) bt Erdington Court (R Brittan) 19-18; Blackheath and Greenwich (A Thomson) bt Felixstowe and Suffolk (C Long) 31-20, Cowes Medina (P Dunstan) bt Worksop Cricket and Sports (G Wyllie) 23-18; Bath (D Southcombe) bt Leicester (J Rudkin) 22-21; Farrington (J Stradling) bt Overseal Memorial (T Kirby) 23-13; Carlisle Courtfield (T Taylor) bt Banbury Borough (G Moon) 26-11; City of Exeter (D Joslin) bt Desborough, Northants (J Hall) 29-20; St Peter's Municipal (D Howells) bt Bolton (R Milton) 21-16; Long Eaton Town (M Swift) bt Cleator Moor, Cumbria (C Neen) 21-20 (after extra end), Cutler Hammer Europa (H Bridle) bt Thorpe Recreation (R Field) 22-21; Leominster (D Magness) bt Watchet (N Williams) 22-21 (after extra end), St Andrew's Park and Kildare (P Hughes) bt Springfield Acton (R Danty) 22-21; Woodbridge Hill (H Craig) bt Saltash (I Spreadborough) 23-15; Avenue, Leamington (N Walker) bt Lincoln Railway (P Garrett) 22-18; Chandos Park (E Hangar) bt Chippenham Town (N Connor) 28-15; March Conservatives (L Miller) bt West Row, Suffolk (P Haylock) 28-4; Shanklin (R Jeffery) bt Connaught, Essex (J Wilson) 20-13; Bexley Hospital (B Warren) bt Hardy Road, York (D Slaughter) 29-4; Nottingham City (K Hill) bt IBM, Havant (I Foster) 27-17; Droitwich Spa (I Jenkins) bt Thatcham (D Crouch) 19-18; Poole Park (R Porter) bt Banbury Borough (C Carpenter) 30-19; Lecholme, Durham (S Williams) bt Buckden (R Coleman) 19-15; Garston (A Brden) bt Hexham Elvaston (J Smiles) 22-21, Kingscroft, Leics (R Huckle) bt Worthing Pavilion (A Vickers) 22-20.

**Football**

Barry Town's Dean Huggins created history yesterday by becoming the first player from the League of Wales to be selected for a Welsh international squad. The 19-year-old, who moved from Bristol City in the close season, was included in the Welsh squad for the European Under-21 Championship qualifying game against San Marino on 30 August. The game takes place at Barry's Jenner Park ground.

**WALES UNDER-21 SQUAD** (European Under-21 Championship qualifier v San Marino, Jenner Park, Barry, 30 August): A Williams (Blackburn), Mountain (Cardiff), Bellamy (Norwich), Blaney (West Ham), Brace (Wrexham), Coates (Swansea), C Edwards (Swansea), Hartson (Arsenal), Haworth (Cardiff), Huggins (Barry Town), Hughes (Aston Villa), Jarman (Cardiff), Parry (Crystal Palace), Robinson (Wolves), Rowlands (Manchester City), J Thomas (Blackburn), A Williams (Southampton), Young (Cardiff).

Wigan Athletic's Coca-Cola Cup tie with Preston North End at Springfield Park tonight is no longer an all-ticket match. Fans can now pay at the turnstile for the first-round tie, which kicks off at 7.45pm, after police relaxed their ruling.

The Brazilian midfielder Ze Elias has joined Germany's Bayer Leverkusen for a club-record £3m from Corinthians. However, his compatriot, defender Junior Baiano, banned for 10 matches for punching an opponent, has been sold by Werder Bremen to the Brazilian club Flamengo for £870,000.

**MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER:** Columbus Crew 2 San Jose Clash 0; Washington DC Utd 2 Los Angeles Galaxy 1.

**TRANSFER:** Jeff Eckhardt (defender) Stockport to Cardiff City (£30,000).

**LOAN:** Brett Angell (striker) Sunderland to Stockport County.

**Golf**

**SONY RANKINGS:** 1 G Norman (Aus) 10.78pts; 2 C Montgomerie 9.33; 3 E Els (SA) 8.89; 4 N Faldo 8.81; 5 T Lehman (US) 8.65; 6 M Ozaki (Jap) 8.28; 7 F Couples (US) 8.23; 8 C Pavin (US) 8.08; 9 N Price (Zim) 7.24; 10 M O'Meara (US) 7.02; 11 B Langer (Ger) 6.92; 12 P Mickelson (US) 6.56; 13 S Elkington (Aus) 6.44; 14 D Love III (US) 6.29; 15 M McCumber (US) 6.00; 16 S Hoch (US) 5.92; 17 V Singh (Fiji) 5.53; 18 L Roberts (US) 5.32; 19 D Duval (US) 5.15; 20 T Watson (US) 4.85. Others: 24 I Woosnam 4.60; 29 S Torrance 4.05; 46 B Lane 3.12; 51 S Ballesteros (Sp).

**SPRINT INTERNATIONAL** (Castle Rock, Colorado (US unless stated): Leading totals and four scores: 31 C Rose 6 3 12 10; 6 Faxon 6 6 12 7 (Rose won with eagle at third extra hole). 30 B Tway 7 2 11 10; M Bradley 9 3 11 7. 27 T Lehman 7 4 6 8; J Leonard 6 6 4 9. 25 D A Weibring 4 2 12 7. 24 K Perry 11 0 7 6. 23 N Faldo (GB) 6 4 6 5; P Goydos 2 10 9 2; J Cook 10 8 3 2; W Austin 10 3 5 5; B Andrade 7 9 3 4. 22 R Freeman 13 5 4 0; A Magee 2 8 9 3. 21 P Mickelson 5 9 5 2. 10 R Mediate 6 5 5 3; J Funk 3 4 9 3. 18 P-U Johansson (Swe) 2 6 6 1; E Els (SA) 1 9 6 2. 16 M Brooks -4 10 10 0; J Gallagher 13 -2 6 -1. 11 Steve Lowery 7 12 -4 -4. 10 S Jurgensen 8 5 3 -6.

**Pools news**

**LITTLEWOODS** Half-time results and claims notice (five score draws): 6, 18, 19, 36, 44 16. No Score Draws: 7, 8, 17, 20, 21, 24, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 37, 39, 47, 48, 49. Dividend forecast is moderate. Full-time dividend forecast (eight score draws): 4, 6, 15, 18, 23, 27, 30, 44 4 No score draws: 8, 39, 47, 48 17. Away wins: 2, 3, 9, 11, 14, 19, 20, 21, 26, 33, 34, 37, 38, 41, 42, 45, 49. Dividend forecast is very good.

**Rugby League**

There is, after all, to be a cash prize for the winners of the first Stones Super League Championship. Either St Helens or Wigan will pick up a cheque for £60,000 next week.

The Conrad group, who narrowly failed to take over Leeds United, have turned their attention to the city's rugby league club. The Leeds chairman, Denis Greenwood, confirmed that talks had taken place.

**AUSTRALIAN PREMIERSHIP** (Sydney) 20th round of the Optus Cup: Western Suburbs 23, North Sydney 22.

**Rugby Union**

Gloucester are paying their first transfer fee to buy Morley's centre Craig Emerson. The Third Division side had signed Emerson on a one-year contract but have agreed to release him in return for a substantial payment, believed to be around £10,000.

Home and away play-offs will decide the fate of England's top clubs from this season onwards. EPRUC (English Professional Rugby Union Clubs Ltd) are introducing the new system to decide the final promotion and relegation places in the Courage League's First and Second Divisions.

**Tennis**

**RCA CHAMPIONSHIP** (Indianapolis) Final: P Sampras (US) bt G Ivanisevic (Cro) 7-6 7-5.

**PILOT PEN INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT** (New Haven, Connecticut) Final: A O'Brien (US) bt J Siemerink (Neth) 7-6 6-4.

**ACURA WOMEN'S CLASSIC** (Manhattan Beach, California): Semi-final: A Huber (Ger) bt K Habsudova (Slovak) 7-6 6-3. Final: L Davenport (US) bt Huber 6-2 6-3.

**ATP RANKINGS:** 1 P Sampras (US) 4,318 pts; 2 T Muster (Aut) 3,722; 3 M Chang (US) 3,522; 4 Y Kafelnikov (Rus) 3,178; 5 B Becker (Ger) 3,091; 6 G Ivanisevic (Croa) 2,831; 7 R Krajicek (Neth) 2,434; 8 A Agassi (US) 2,399; 9 J Courier (US) 2,337; 10 W Ferreira (SA) 2,334; 11 M Rios (Chile) 1,954; 12 M Washington (US) 1,898; 13 T Martin (US) 1,667; 14 T Enqvist (Swe) 1,662; 15 A Costa (Sp) 1,633; 16 F Mantilla (Sp) 1,526; 17 M Rosset (Swit) 1,509; 18 C Pioline (Fr) 1,500; 19 M Stich (Ger) 1,473; 20 J Siemerink (Neth) 1,358.

**MENTADENT CHAMPIONS OVER-35 TOURNAMENT** (Mashpee, Massachusetts) Final: A Gomez (Ecu) bt J Connors (US) 6-2 4-5 (ret).

**LTA SUMMER SATELLITE MASTERS** (Havant): Men's singles first round: T Hildebrand (Swe) bt G Saffery (GB) 6-1 2-6 6-2; D Roberts (SA) bt M Boulding (GB) 7-6 6-3; J Delgado (GB) bt J Alven (Swe) 7-5 6-1; S Pender (GB) bt O Henderson (GB) 6-3 6-3; J Davidson (GB) bt D Ward (GB) 6-4 6-2; M Wyeth (GB) bt L Vosloo (SA) 6-4 6-4; C Snell (Aus) bt V Venkataraghavan (Ind) 6-2 6-3; J Fox (GB) bt G Cowan (GB) 5-7 6-4 6-4.

## EVENING RACING RESULTS

**LEICESTER**

5.40: 1. DUMMER GOLF TIME (D Harrison) 9-4 fav; 2. Safey Ana 4-1; 3. Perilous Plight 11-1. 9 ran. 2, 1½. (Lord Huntingdon). Tote: £3.00; £1.60, £1.10, £2.60. Dual Forecast: £6.80. Computer Straight Forecast: £11.37. Trio: £19.30.

6.10: 1. HEAVENLY MISS (T Sprake) 9-1; 2. Saint Who 11-2; 3. Fearless Cavalier 11-2. 8 ran. 100-30 jt-favs Champagne On Ice (4th), Skippy Was A Kiwi (5th). 2, 2½. (B Palling). Tote: £9.60; £2.30, £2.00, £2.10. DF: £65.90. CSF: £55.95.

6.40: 1. BANGLES (D Harrison) 9-2; 2. Longwick Lad 13-2; 3. Polly Golightly 13-2. 9 ran. 7-2 fav Windrush Boy. 1¾, ¾. (Lord Huntingdon). Tote: £3.70; £1.60, £2.10, £2.80. DF: £20.40. CSF: £30.28. Tricast: £171.23. Trio: £38.00. NR: Malibu Man.

7.10: 1. RASSAK JAMEEL (T Sprake) 9-2 fav; 2. Get Away With It 5-1; 3. Te Amo 6-1. 10 ran. Nk, 2½. (W R Hern). Tote: £4.80; £2.00, £1.70, £2.60. DF: £13.20. CSF: £26.06. Tricast: £125.89. Trio: £22.80.

**PLUMPTON**

5.30: 1. SCAMALLACH (G Bradley) 8-11 fav; 2. Misty View 7-1; 3. Siesta Time 11-4. 5 ran. 4, 7. (J Jenkins). Tote: £1.40; £1.10, £2.10. DF: £3.40. CSF: £5.84.

5.55: 1. VERULAM (G Bradley) 9-4; 2. Bright Eclipse 4-1; 3. Home Cookin' 11-8 fav. 5 ran. 7, 25. (J Jenkins). Tote: £3.70; £1.50, £1.30. DF: £8.30. CSF: £10.75.

6.25: 1. NOBLELY (R Farrant) 5-4; 2. Safety evens fav; 3. Lavalight 33-1. 4 ran. 25, 14. (N Walker). Tote: £1.70. DF: £1.10. CSF: £2.69.

6.55: 1. GONE BY (G Bradley) 11-2; 2. No Light 13-8 fav; 3. Mr Genealogy 7-2. 5 ran. 1¼, 25. (J Jenkins). Tote: £5.00; £1.90, £1.20. DF: £4.00. CSF: £14.44.

7.25: 1. WAKT (A P McCoy) 2-9 fav; 2. Jimmy The Jackdaw 5-1. 3 ran (2 finished). 5. (J White). Tote: £1.10. DF: £1.20. CSF: £1.70.

■ There is a strong British presence in the Listed Prix de la Vallée d'Auge over five furlongs for juveniles at Deauville today, when John Gosden's Head Over Heels (Willie Ryan) puts in a quick reappearance after winning on Saturday. The winner of the Listed St Hugh's Stakes at Newbury is joined in her French quest by Kevin McAuliffe's Double J (Cash Asmussen) and Chris Dwyer's Jennelle (Jo Hunnam). The British trio may have most to fear from Amitie Fatale and Clever Caption.

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

**Football**

*7.30 unless stated*

**FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP**
Leeds v Sheffield Wednesday (7.45)

**NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE**
**FIRST DIVISION**
Bolton v Manchester City (7.45)

**COCA-COLA CUP**
**FIRST ROUND FIRST LEG**
Brentford v Plymouth (7.45)
Cardiff City v Northampton
Carlisle v Chester (7.45)
Colchester v West Bromwich (7.45)
Darlington v Rotherham
Doncaster v York
Exeter v Barnet (7.45)
Hartlepool v Lincoln
Hereford v Cambridge
Huddersfield v Wrexham (7.45)
Hull City v Scarborough
Ipswich v Bournemouth (7.45)
Luton v Bristol Rovers (7.45)
Mansfield v Burnley (7.45)
Notts County v Bury (7.45)
Oldham v Grimsby (7.45)
Oxford Utd v Norwich (7.45)
Port Vale v Crewe (7.45)
Portsmouth v Leyton Orient (7.45)
Reading v Wycombe (7.45)
Rochdale v Barnsley (7.45)
Scunthorpe v Blackpool
Sheffield Utd v Bradford (7.45)
Southend v Fulham (7.45)
Stockport v Chesterfield
Swansea v Gillingham
Swindon v Wolves (7.45)
Torquay v Bristol City (7.45)
Walsall v Watford (7.45)
Wigan v Preston (7.45)

**GM VAUXHALL CONFERENCE**
Bromsgrove v Telford (7.45)
Dover v Hayes (7.45)
Farnborough v Kidderminster (7.45)
Halifax v Altrincham (7.45)
Kettering v Welling (7.45)
Slough v Rushden (7.45)
Southport v Stalybridge (7.45)
Woking v Bath (7.45)

**UEFA CUP QUALIFYING ROUND SECOND LEG**
Aberdeen (4) v Zalgiris Vilnius (1)
Barry (1) v Vasas Budapest (3)
Celtic (0) v Kosice (0) (7.45)

**Other ties:** Haka Valkeakoski (Fin) (0) v Legia Warsaw (Pol) (3); Lokomotiv Sofia (Bul) (0) v Rapid Bucharest (Rom) (1); Odense (Den) (2) v Sliema Wanderers (Malta) (0); Apoel Nicosia (Cyp) (1) v Iraklis Salonika (Gr) (0); Spartak Moscow (1) v Croatia Zagreb (3); National Bucharest (Rom) (0) v Partizan Belgrade (Yug) (0); Molde (Nor) (1) v Dynamo Tbilisi (Geor) (2); Mura Murska Sobota (Sloven) (0) v Lyngby (Den) (0); Vardar Skopje (Mac) (0) v Halmstads (Swe) (0); Jazz Pori (Fin) (1) v Dynamo Moscow (1); Dynamo-93 Minsk (Bela) (1) v Helsingborgs (Swe) (1); Torpedo Moscow (0) v Hajduk Split (Croa) (1); Lantana (Est) (0) v Aarau (Swit) (4); Besiktas (Turk) (1) v Dynamo Minsk (Bela) (2); Chernomorets Odessa (Ukr) (2) v HJK Helsinki (Fin) (2); Vojvodina (Yug) (0) v Casino Graz (Aut) (2); Neuchatel Xamax (Swit) (2) v Anorthosis Famagusta (Cyp) (1); Hutnik Krakow (Pol) (0) v Sigma Olomouc (Cz Rep) (1); CSKA Moscow (2) v Akranes (Ice) (0); Tirol Innsbruck (Aut) (1) v Slavia Sofia (Bul) (1); Trabzonspor (Turk) (1) v Slovan Bratislava (Slovak) (2); Malmo (Swe) (3) v Skonto Riga (Lat) (0); Bodo Glimt (Nor) (5) v Beitar Jerusalem (1).

**ICIS LEAGUE** Premier Division: Aylesbury v Bromley; Bishop's Stortford v Grays; Boreham Wood v Hitchin; Enfield v Hendon; Heybridge Swifts v St Albans; Staines v Kingstonian. First Division: Billericay v Walton & Hersham; Canvey Island v Berkhamsted; Leyton Pennant v Abingdon Town; Thame v Maidenhead; Tooting & Mitcham v Croydon; Uxbridge v Aldershot Town; Whyteleafe v Barton Rovers; Wokingham v Basingstoke; Bognor Regis v Hampton. Second Division: Bedford v Hemel Hempstead; Bracknell v Leatherhead; Dorking v Horsham; Edgware v Barking; Egham v Chalfont St Peter; Leighton v Banstead; Tilbury v Metropolitan Police; Ware v Wivenhoe; Wembley v Hungerford; Witham v Windsor & Eton.

**DR MARTENS LEAGUE** Premier Division: Cambridge City v Gravesend; Dorchester v Cheltenham (7.45); Gloucester v Merthyr Tydfil; Gresley v Worcester; Halesowen Town v Burton (7.45); Hastings v Ashford; King's Lynn v Atherstone (7.45); Nuneaton v Newport AFC. Midland Division: Boston v Sutton Coldfield; Grantham v Leicester Utd; Ilkeston v Corby; Moor Green v Stafford; Warwick v Rothwell; Shepshed v Solihull; Tamworth v Stourbridge. Southern Division: Buckingham Town v Cirencester; Fisher v Margate; Newport IoW v Waterlooville (7.45); Trowbridge v Havant; Weston-super-Mare v Weymouth; Witney v Fareham (7.45).

**INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE:** Barwell v Boldmere; Blakenall v Rocester; Bridgnorth v West Midlands Police; Halesowen Harriers v Stratford; Knypersley v Bloxwich; Pelsall v Sandwell; Rushall v Oldbury; Shifnal v Chasetown; Stapenhill v Hinckley Athletic; Willenhall v Pershore.

**NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE** First Division: Eastwood Hanley v Burscough; Glossop v Blackpool Rovers; Holker Old Boys v Atherton Collieries; Mossley v St Helens; Nantwich v Newcastle Town; Trafford v Penrith; Vauxhall GM v Salford.

**SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE** Premier Division: Mangotsfield v Bridport; Paulton v Bristol Manor Farm; Westbury v Backwell.

**FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE** First Division: Chester-le-Street v Low Lane; Dunston v Crook; Easington v Shildon; South Shields v Morpeth; West Auckland v Murton.

**JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE** Premier Division (all 7.45): Bury Town v Great Yarmouth; Clacton v Halstead; Diss v Watton; Gorleston v Stowmarket; Harwich v Tiptree; Lowestoft v Felixstowe; Warboys v Fakenham.

**UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE** First Division: Arundel v Portfield; Hailsham v Southwick; Hassocks v Eastbourne Town; Horsham YMCA v Oakwood; Peacehaven v Mile Oak; Ringmer v Langney; Shoreham v Pagham (7.45); Wick v Selsey.

**UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE** Premier Division: Desborough v Ford Sports; Long Buckby v Cogenhoe; Newport Pagnell v Kempston; Stamford v Boston Town; SL Corby v Spalding; Stotfold v Eynesbury; Wellingborough v Mirrlees Blackstone.

**WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE** First Division: Beckenham v Greenwich (6.0); Chatham v Whitstable (7.45); Deal v Faversham; Furness v Corinthian (6.0); Herne Bay v Folkestone (7.45); Ramsgate v Hythe; Slade Green v Cray; Thamesmead v Woolwich (7.45).

**TODAY'S NUMBER**

**276,503**

The total number of people who attended football matches in the First, Second and Third Divisions at the weekend – an average attendance of 7,681. Figures were up 5.2 per cent on opening-day levels last season.

**FOOTBALL AND RUGBY IN UNISON: David Aaronovitch** on Chris Wright's plans for Queen's Park Rangers and Wasps Page 22

# Malcolm blasts Derbyshire to top of the table

**Cricket**

HENRY BLOFELD reports from Derby

Derbyshire 341 and 377-8 dec
Nottinghamshire 317 and 98
*Derbyshire win by 303 runs*

Sadly, there cannot be too many people still around who took part in the celebrations when Derbyshire won the County Championship for the only time in 1936. Their present supporters, who will include a sprinkling of the old, have every right now to hope for a second Championship after Derbyshire gained such a decisive victory over their neighbours and keen rivals Nottinghamshire.

Dean Jones' side are at the top of the table with barely a month to go and four more matches in front of them: they play Worcestershire at Chesterfield, Somerset at Taunton and Warwickshire and Durham at Derby. There are worse prospects than that.

The manner in which they disposed of Nottinghamshire was impressive. The enigmatic and currently irrepressible Devon Malcolm was inevitably the bowler who did the business, with Phillip DeFreitas as a lively and most willing accessory.

Chris Cairns had the impertinence to try to hook in Malcolm's first over and paid the penalty when the mishit stroke was clutched by Adrian Rollins on the square-leg boundary.

This acted as a sort of clearing of the throat for Malcolm, who proceeded to bounce in with his rhythm in full working order and blast Chris Tolley's off stump out of the ground with a ball he never saw, so much so that he left it alone.

This stunned DeFreitas, who immediately meted out similar treatment to the off stump of Kevin Evans, who also forgot to play a stroke. The odd push and a couple of edges took the score to 98 when Malcolm again grew impatient. Wayne Noon pushed hopefully from the crease at one which seemed to come back into him and Rollins dived like a gymnast to his right at short leg and held on.

It only remained for DeFreitas, in his next over, to find the edge of Mark Bowen's drive and Jones gleefully held a stinging catch two-handed to his right at third slip. As Paul Pollard was still unfit to bat after the blow he had had on the helmet from Malcolm on Saturday, it was a short and most convincing day's work for Derbyshire.

It was appropriate that Jones should have held the last catch because it is, more than anything, the Australian influence which seems to have made the difference to Derbyshire this year. When Jones was first contacted about the job of captaining Derbyshire, he said he would only accept if he could bring his coach and friend, Les Stillman, with him.

Derbyshire agreed and it has been a happy and fruitful relationship. Jones has relished the challenge, he has batted well and as a captain his single most important act is to have given Malcolm back his self respect. I do not suppose any England captain or selector would want to have a talk with Jones, but Derby is not all that far away.

In 1936, Derbyshire were captained by Arthur Richardson. Wisden says of him that he captained the side with "a shrewdness and geniality which brought the best out of the cricketers under him." Jones would not be unhappy with that testimonial. At the moment, Derbyshire are a vibrant club and they will take some holding.

# £2.38m boost for English cricket

England's international future yesterday received a £2.38m boost. A scheme designed to produce quality Test players for coming years was unveiled at Lord's by the Cricket Foundation, and its ideal is to set up 38 centres of excellence, one for each of the new County Boards.

"It is an important first brick in the structure of the English Cricket Board which will be up and running on 1 October," said Ossie Wheatley, the chairman of the Cricket Foundation.

A major objective of Wheatley's is for the 17-year-old finished products to emerge from the centres as good as those who graduate from the highly-successful Australian Academy.

A cash injection of £2.2m from the Test and County Cricket Board plus a guarantee of £1.9m over the next three years has handsomely backed a development project which will cost £2.38m overall.

The first centre of excellence for young hopefuls in the Under-12 to Under-17 age group is to be set up at Durham University, which has produced 30 county players.

Wheatley added: "The long-promised restructuring of cricket in England and Wales is underway. Every county in the country – 38 County Boards – will benefit from this investment. The emphasis is on developing better quality young cricketers, particularly 11-16-year-olds."

All 38 County Boards have received grants, six amounting to six figures, plus £135,000 to Durham University in three annual awards of £45,000.

Australia's cricketers left yesterday for a short tour of Sri Lanka, where they face a volatile reception after refusing to set foot on the island six months ago due to security fears. It is their first visit since boycotting a World Cup fixture in February. they will be without their captain, Mark Taylor, as well as Shane Warne because of injury.

India's new captain, Sachin Tendulkar, has admitted he is worried about ethnic violence in Sri Lanka a week before the start of the Singer World Series tournament – but he seems reassured the Sri Lankans have done all they can to protect the three visiting sides, India, Zimbabwe and Australia.

"It does worry us a bit," Tendulkar said. "We hear so many things. It is difficult to put them out of your mind and so there is some pressure. But I am confident about the security cover."

■ The Test and County Cricket Board's disciplinary hearing into the positive drug test by the Sussex bowler Ed Giddins was suspended after four and a half hours yesterday, and will resume this morning.

# Scottish quartet ready for Europe

**Football**

Scotland's Gang of Four enter continental combat this week knowing success is becoming increasingly crucial to maintain tartan presence in Europe.

Celtic, Aberdeen, Rangers and Hearts appear to have given themselves a better than even chance of progress in the qualifying rounds of the European competitions. And progress for all four is imperative if Scotland are to cling to their status in the continental arena.

Uefa is already threatening to withdraw the Uefa Cup place on offer to the Scottish Coca-Cola Cup holders and, ultimately, only one place instead of the current two might be on offer if Scottish clubs continue to perform poorly.

Changes to the Champions' League set-up for next season may favour the runners-up in the English Premiership, but whoever wins the title in Scotland may face even more hazardous preliminary and qualifying round games than Rangers have experienced in the past.

Walter Smith's men head for Russia today via Austria with a 3-1 lead over Alania Vladikavkaz, hoping to reach the lucrative Champions' League for the third time in five seasons. Rangers are said to be on £30,000 a man to make it to the group stages, which could be worth in excess of £5m to the club.

Richard Gough, who suffered a nasty head cut against Clydebank last week, came through Saturday's 5-2 Premier Division win over Dunfermline and is fit to travel. Smith is hoping Gordon Durie will recover from a chest infection while Gordan Petric has a slight thigh problem.

Celtic and Aberdeen are first into Europe tonight, with both hoping to reach the first round proper of the Uefa Cup. Pittodrie will probably host an almost meaningless tie, with Aberdeen having won 4-1 in Lithuania in the first leg against Zalgiris Vilnius.

Celtic will have the backing of a packed Parkhead as they seek to overcome Slovakian visitors Kosice after a goalless draw away from home. Simon Donnelly, sent off in Kosice, is suspended for the return but Italian Paolo Di Canio could make the bench. Paul McStay and Phil O'Donnell are both out injured.

Rangers will be next into action in darkest Russia when they face Alania in Vladikavkaz tomorrow night. Paul Gascoigne is suspended while Vladikavkaz will be without Arthur Pagayev, sent off at Ibrox a fortnight ago.

Hearts face Red Star Belgrade in the Cup-Winners' Cup in Edinburgh on Thursday night. Jim Jefferies' side did well to earn a goalless draw in Belgrade but will have to be wary of conceding an away goal at Tynecastle. Hearts should have the backing of around 16,000 fans after being given the go-ahead by council chiefs last week to open the Gorgie Road end of the ground.

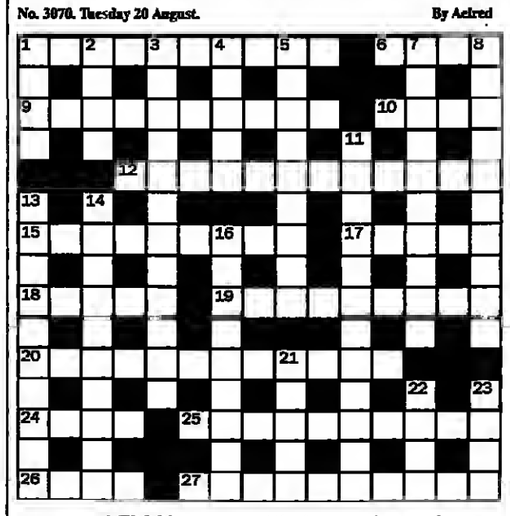
## Briton spinning wheels of fortune at the Paralympics


**Following the red line: Kevin Heslop, the Great Britain cyclist, stays low on the track to increase speed in the 200m sprint event at the Stone Mountain Velodrome during the Paralympics in Atlanta, Georgia**

Report, page 22. Photograph: Todd Warshaw/Allsport

## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 3070. Tuesday 20 August. By Aelred



ACROSS
1 Losing our tempers about one is shameful (10)
6 Crave some bitchiness (4)
9 Detective has intelligence to get point of observer (3-7)
10 Blood products would be returned to Mars (4)
12 Forceful leads of one of red suit causes complaints (5,7)
15 Perhaps end of fen country's final stand (4-5)
17 Come up again about mongrel (5)
18 Commander-in-Chief secures honour, which is funny (5)
19 Divert team with song on CD? (4-5)
20 Her misplaced suspicion on land agent could be a minus (6,6)
24 Anything but marine standard (4)
25 Elsie prays for cure of illness (10)
26 Prepare to shoot male hird (4)
27 Policy with regard to cheque, we hear? (10)

DOWN
1 One's cross, having to hold live animal (4)
2 Song to be feature in single, evidently (4)
3 Rare odic tribute to male's incidental remark (6,6)
4 Victor, abandoned by women, is taking heart? (5)
5 Not cast down holding animal to be lacking injury (9)
7 Ditch firm by getting personal cover? (6-4)
8 Effect of too many higher degrees? (10)
11 One said to swear after rage is effectively a belligerent (5,7)
13 Awfully nice lector might not need such aids? (10)
14 Like my backing of verse that's unbalanced (10)
16 After short time request church dedicated body (4-5)
21 Untouchables, say, in Dacca's territory (5)
22 Are able to gather 50 relatives? (4)
23 Man, say, lies down (4)

Monday's Solution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# Sherwood is tempted by Blackburn contract

ALAN NIXON AND MARK BURTON

Tim Sherwood is being offered a new five-year contract to stay with Blackburn Rovers. The midfield player had talks with Rovers' chairman, Robert Coar, yesterday in an attempt to settle his future after weeks of rumour that he would join Arsenal.

Rovers are willing to throw in a testimonial that could make the contract extension worth almost £3m. Ray Harford, the Rovers manager, is keen to have Sherwood, valued at £4m, tied down because he faces mounting problems and needs his captain to stay. Sherwood will be in the team for the trip to Aston Villa tomorrow.

Jason Wilcox, who missed Rovers' opening Premiership match against Tottenham, has undergone another knee operation to remove gristle from his knee. The winger only returned to action towards the end of last season after being out for close on a year following surgery on a cruciate ligament injury.

Queen's Park Rangers have been fined £25,000 by the Football Association because of their poor disciplinary record. Rangers had a £50,000 suspended fine hanging over them because of their disciplinary record during the 1994/95 season. Because there was no improvement last season, when they had four players sent off, they have now been punished. The FA also fined Wimbledon £10,000 for indiscipline.

QPR's former England striker, Mark Hateley, has joined Leeds United on a month's loan to cover the absence of Tony Yeboah and Brian Deane. Yeboah is recovering from an exploratory knee operation and Deane is out for several weeks after suffering knee and groin injuries during Saturday's season opener at Derby. Hateley, 34, will make his debut for Leeds in tonight's home game against Sheffield Wednesday.

Carlton Palmer may be missing from the Leeds defence after picking up back and ankle injuries during Saturday's match against Derby County.

Manchester City might miss out on Elvis Brajkovic, the Croatian defender they want to replace Keith Curle. City hope to sign him from his German club Munich 1860, but the Spanish club, Celta Vigo, are interested in him and are, apparently, offering the player more money.

City's manager, Alan Ball, is also interested in signing the Scottish striker Paul Dickov from Arsenal. He has had an offer of £750,000 accepted and will have talks with the player.

Sunderland have signed goalkeeper Lionel Perez from Bordeaux for £200,000. The transfer is subject to approval from the French Federation. He will act as cover for Tony Coton, who moved to Roker Park from Manchester United for £600,000 during the summer.

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, has added Glenn Roeder and Roy McFarland to his scouting network. They both lost managerial posts last season. McFarland was sacked by Bolton and Roeder was dismissed by Watford. Hoddle's existing scouting team includes the new England Under-21 coach, Peter Taylor, the new England goalkeeping coach, Ray Clemence, Ted Buxton, Don Howe, Dave Sexton and Ken Brown.

# Fighting for peace in São Paulo

Two players were sent off for fighting while the referee was given a police escort on Sunday in a Brazilian championship match which had begun with players offering their support to a peace campaign.

The São Paulo team brought a white flag on to the field for their home match with Bahia to show solidarity for a public campaign against violence in São Paulo, which has seen several people murdered during armed robberies this month.

But as soon as the game began, the players set about kicking each other as a series of wild tackles flew in. The São Paulo midfielder Edmilson was the victim of a vicious tackle from behind which resulted in most of the players squaring up to each other. Six minutes into the second half, Edmilson and the Bahia midfielder Darci were shown the red card for fighting.

The referee had been given a police escort as he left the field at the interval to protect him against Bahia players who believed the goal which gave São Paulo a 2-1 lead was offside.

Two late goals from Colombia's Victor Hugo Aristizabal gave the home side a 5-2 win, and he said afterwards: "You need to be calm with the ball, it has to be treated like a woman."